Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-215
Tuesday
7 November 1995

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Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-215 *7 November 1995*

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Key Developments

Electoral Commission Registers Yabloko 6 Nov

LD0611163795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By Igor Belsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 6 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Central Election Commission registered on Monday the moderate reformist Yabloko group headed by liberal economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy following a court ruling.

Commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov said candidates to the State Duma will draw lots on November 10 to decide the order in which they will appear in ballot papers and on television.

The commission also considered the cases of six other election blocs and associations which filed lawsuits against the commission's decision denying them registration.

Difficulties emerged during the consideration of registration applications filed by the Federal Democratic Movement, Zemskyi Sobor (more commonly known as the Party of the Protection of the Disabled) and the Independents' Coalition.

It turned out that they did not collect enough signatures needed to register their lists. The commission decided to adjourn the consideration of these cases until its next session.

The Sluzhim Rossii bloc (We Serve Russia) was denied registration because of the lack of signatures.

Christian Democrats Oppose Pressure on TsIK

LD0311144095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (ITAR-TASS) — In the opinion of Vitaliy Savitskiy, leader of the electoral bloc Christian Democratic Union — Christians of Russia, who held a press conference in the State Duma today, pressure is being exerted on the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] in order to railroad the signatures of those, who cannot prepare registration documents in due time. Savitsky mentioned Yavlinskiy's Yabloko among those electoral blocs. He believes Yavlinskiy violated the electoral rights of his electorate.

According to Savitskiy, "the open alliance of Yabloko with the communist flank in the State Duma has led to the changing of the alignment of political forces in the democratic camp in favour of Yegor Gaydar's party, along with the steady decline of the popularity of Yavlinskiy's movement." Savitskiy reminded in this connection that there was not a single subject of the federation, in which Yabloko supporters won local elections. [sentence as received]

The Christian Democratic leader described as cynical the attempts of some political forces in the Duma to revise legislation on elections, and stressed that the postponement of the elections was fraught with the threat of a civil war. He said that their bloc had successfully passed the registration procedure at the Central Electoral Commission and hoped to overcome the 5-percent barrier at the elections to the lower chamber of parliament.

Skokov Denies Possible Union With Zyuganov

LD0511232195 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Video report by unidentified correspondent; passages within quotation marks are recorded; from the "Sunday" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Rumors about a possible union between the individuals who live in the same elite building in downtown Moscow intensified at the beginning of November. We asked Gennadiy Zyuganov to clarify the situation. Usually the Communist leader avoids inviting television journalists to his apartment. But he made an exception for our crew.

Yuriy Skokov, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, gave an interview to the "Sunday" program on Friday. Skokov said that the Congress of Russian Communities has not given any indication that will support the rumors of a possible union with Gennadiy Zyuganov.

[Skokov] "He and I live in the same building and sometimes we bump into each other, and obviously we then greet each other and talk a bit, and after each of these encounters Zyuganov announces at a news conference that a negotiation process has began. He likes talking about it, although I know perfectly well that the situation is entirely different."

[Correspondent] Gennadiy Zyuganov said that negotiations with the Congress of Russian Communities were indeed under way.

[Zyuganov] "We have had a number of consultations with Skokov, without mentioning Glazyev, whom we constantly meet in the Duma. More than once we have discussed various pressing problems. Recently we also had a short meeting with Aleksandr Lebed.

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[Skokov] "We have had no talks with Zyuganov. Moreover, yesterday I switched on the television...[pauses] I arrived at the airport, was met there, and was told that Zyuganov had announced that documents on the unification with the Congress of Russian Communities were going to be signed on Friday. I was surprised because no agreement was reached. I asked Lebed and Glazyev in case they had agreed to that, but they knew nothing."

[Correspondent] The unification did not happen. For now, Yuriy Skokov is criticizing the communists.

[Skokov] "They had the power and could have done everything. Now they allege that power was taken away from them. They gave it up voluntarily. Now they are fighting fiercely and are igniting the public. I do not think it is a very good idea."

[Correspondent] Gennadiy Zyuganov is not impressed with the past of the former secretary of the Security Council either.

[Zyuganov] "Skokov refuses to criticize everything that is happening now. But he was there. He worked with them, and has first-hand knowledge of who gave up the sovereignty of the former Soviet Union, which led to the disintegration of the entire country.

Lebed criticizes both sides equally harshly, while Glazyev is constantly busy trying to force the government out. I would like them to clearly define their positions in order to clarify that this is a single bloc with some backing. There are many generals in the army, but only one or two receive any attention. This is no coincidence. There is a special technique in passing the country from one pair of incompetent hands to another. I do not want people to be fooled yet again. Although Lebed has had good training, real politics demand greater experience, and reality rather than separate grand pronouncements will show us what happens."

[Correspondent] However, despite mutual criticism both Gennadiy Zyuganov and Yuriy Skokov note the similarity in the programs of their respective movements.

[Correspondent, addressing Zyuganov] "Is their position close to yours?

[Zyuganov] "Yes, on a number of issues, why not? We are holding consultations.

[Correspondent] "Are you not afraid of Lebed under the red flag?

[Zyuganov] "I am not afraid of anyone standing under the red flag."

[Skokov] "I am a communist, but unlike many of those who are in power now, I have not ripped up or burned my party card. But if I was asked to join the Communist Party now, I would refuse because although many great deeds were achieved under the leadership of the Communist Party, the destruction of the Soviet Union also took place under the leadership of the Communist Party. I would like to say that I do not reject either the movement, or the party or Zyuganov. If we do in fact reach an agreement with them on these basic points, I will have no problem with that."

[Correspondent] Communists are much better known then their possible allies, the Congress of Russian Communities. Yuriy Skokov, the leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, is known as the invisible man. His public speeches are very rare. Therefore, it is even more surprising that he agreed so easily to give the interview on Friday, right after the sensational news conference during which he accused Boris Yeltsin of not being able to rule the state. What is interesting is that Skokov said this when the president, who had praised him, was in hospital, while Skokov himself was on his way to Paris and New York.

[Skokov] "I do not understand all this commotion. I also said then that I respect Boris Yeltsin as the head of state. However, the results of his work are a different matter."

[Correspondent] It is evident that the assessment of the work was heavily influenced by the fact that this work was carried out without Skokov.

[Skokov] "In 1991, when he stood for president, he asked me to go with him, that is, he would be president, and I would be prime minister. The economic part of the president's program was worked out on the basis that I would be the prime minister. However, when the elections were won he said he could not work with me."

[Correspondent] Now Skokov believes that there is no going back for him, and he does not know the president's present opinion of him.

KRO Leaders Hold Press Conference

MM0711094495 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by S. Baygarov: "Russia Weary of Revolutions, Perestroyka, and Divisions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the Central Electoral Commission's completion of the registration of parties and electoral associations, Yuriy Skokov, Aleksandr Lebed, and Sergey Glazyev, leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], held a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists.

Yuriy Skokov said that the KRO has successfully completed the first phase of the election marathon:

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1,157,000 votes have been collected in support of the party. The formation of an eponymous sociopolitical movement is progressing in parallel with the election campaign, and it already numbers over 460,000 people. In the upcoming elections "if they are lucky" KRO leaders expect to win as many votes as the Communists or "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR].

The first question concerned the relations between the Russian president and the leader of the KRO. Yu. Skokov answered it by saying: "I know that there are a host of stories regarding the complimentary things that the president has said about me. In my view, only two are credible. First, knowing Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] as I do, I imagine that when he praises someone, this means that he has given the order to 'attack' [podana komanda 'fas']."

"Here is the second scenario. You know that Boris Nikolayevich has repudiated, abandoned, and shunned — or has been abandoned by — virtually everyone with whom he began his ascent to the Olympian heights of head of state. Well, generally all those who quit consider it their duty or even moral obligation to malign the president. My view of Boris Nikolayevich as a person is quite unimportant. However, he is Russia's legally elected president and I love and respect my country, I take pride in it, and do not consider it possible to malign the legitimate president of a great state."

Nevertheless respect for Yeltsin as president did not save him from criticism from the KRO leader. Skokov believes that "the president has regrettably failed to handle his office, his duties."

Contrary to many journalists' expectations, there was no sensational statement at the news conference regarding the creation of an election alliance between the KRO and Zyuganov's Communists.

Zyuganov is constantly saying that we are holding talks with him, Yu. Skokov said. Well, we live in the same block and sometimes meet in the entrance, so to speak. We exchange traditional questions and answers like: "How's life?" "OK." Afterwards Mr. Zyuganov announces at a press conference that the negotiating process has begun. Representatives of Zyuganov's party have not held talks with any of us.

When asked what is the "source" of the rumors that Chernomyrdin will be replaced very soon by Skokov, the latter replied tersely: "Fear." He flatly denied the suggestion that this information comes from the KRO. "I do not need that. There must be a reason behind every act. This subject has arisen constantly throughout my years-long acquaintance and cooperation with Yeltsin. This subject is of no interest to me now.... The president would certainly not be overstepping the mark by offering me this post. And I would not be doing so either in accepting the offer."

The KRO considers it unlikely that the elections will be canceled or postponed. "If that happens — the pretext is not important — we will be able to talk of a dramatic shift toward a totalitarian dictatorial state," Yu. Skokov said. "That cannot be permitted."

Sergey Glazyev thinks that some panic over the president's illness has been artificially created by people who would like to wreck the elections. Hence the fueling of rumors of political destabilization in the country, the attempts to amend electoral legislation, enlisting the authority of the Constitutional Court to do so, and so on. Those at the helm, he went on to say, harbor no illusions over the election results and are therefore doing everything they can to cancel or at least postpone them.

Voicing his opinion of the plans for the expansion of the NATO bloc, General Lebed remarked: "The North Atlantic bloc has demonstrated its essence in Bosnia where it behaved like a drunken vandal in a kindergarten: I will kill and pardon anyone I want. No one will be delighted by the proximity of this bloc. You can understand how they feel: There used to be two systems and two blocs, then one system and its bloc collapsed. And one well-organized military force has been left hanging in mid-air.

"It needs to be retargeted. So, they helped embroil us in Chechnya, we were given $6.5 billion — probably for the first and last time — de jure for the development of democratic transformations but de facto for war. We got bogged down, an opportunity appeared to accuse us of increased aggression, and now a decision on NATO's eastward expansion has been made.

"Such actions certainly force Russia to take some kind of similar action. Its first partner — Belarus — is already knocking at the door. This Western policy is forcing Russia to renounce a number of the treaties and agreements that it has signed. And ultimately, instead of reducing the level of confrontation, we are once again seeing another spiral of the arms race. And all this in order to gratify the ambitions of several NATO generals?

"It is now an unpredictable bloc. What guarantee is there that some 'Taiga Storm' is not being planned deep within its headquarters?"

At journalists' request, Gen. Lebed also set out his view of how to settle the situation in Chechnya: Immediately withdraw the troops and station them in areas bordering on this republic, pull out the [Russian-speaking] population and provide amenities for them using the money

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now being wastefully "pumped" into Chechnya, and, finally, enable Chechnya to feel independent of the Russian budget.

Incidentally, S. Glazyev added that a government decree was the only legal basis for the military operations in Chechnya. Mr. Chernomyrdin could have resigned and not signed that document. He did not do so and today he is playing the peacemaker.

During the press conference journalists were given copies of the "KRO Appeal to Russian Citizens." It says among other things: "Russia is weary of revolutions, perestroyka, and division. Every family in Russia has the right to life and property — protected by a legitimate, responsible authority invested with general confidence. Our revival cannot occur without peace in the Fatherland!"

IZVESTIYA Carries KRO Advertisement

MM0611123495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 November 1995 carries on page 2 an election campaign advertisement by the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO]. The quarter-page advertisement consists of a photograph of a slightly smiling elderly bearded man overlaid in one corner by a sample proposal form "To the Congress of Russian Communities, Skokov and Lebed." The text beneath the photograph reads as follows:

"Dear compatriot!

"The Congress of Russian Communities is not a party and not a bloc of parties.

"Our movement includes people of various nationalities and religious and political convictions united by concern for our country's future and hope for its resurrection.

"In completing work on our program of priority actions we ask you to help us with your advice and mandate.

"You may be sure that your proposals are the basis for the work of the Congress of Russian Communities."

The advertisement is followed by two Moscow addresses with telephone numbers that readers can contact.

Shakhray Addresses PRES Credo, Election Law, Presidency

MM0611145395 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Andrey Smirnov: "Future Russian President Introduces His Comrades-in-Arms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] will take part in the December elections regardless of whether amendments are made to the current electoral law or not because the "elections constitute an important political instrument for lowering the temperature in society," PRES leader Sergey Shakhray believes. He made this statement when introducing his comrades-in-arms — the leaders of the officially registered federal list — to Moscow journalists.

PRES left "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR], according to Shakhray, because Chernomyrdin's movement, conceived as an association of democratic parties, has "become a party of prominent officials." "While the PRES federal list was formed on the basis of professionalism, there are no and there will be no 'honorary deputies,' artistes, and buffoons on that list," Shakhray said. The number two party leader on this list after Shakhray is the world-renowned scientist Academician Valeriy Bykov; he is followed by the well-known pediatrician Aleksandr Baranov, whom astrologists are forecasting as Russian health minister; the lawyers Aleksandr Kotenkov, co-author of two dozen laws, and Sergey Shishkin; State Duma Deputy Anatoliy Sliva, who believes that "local democracy in Russia will triumph"; Stanislav Polovnikov, a representative of the military-industrial complex, who is convinced that "the country should be run by professionals rather than amateurs"; the Nizhniy Novgorod businesswoman Irina Mikhaylovskaya, a "specialist in breaking down barriers," as she introduced herself; and others.

They are all united in their desire to preserve Russia's unity and revive it as a great power. "Our credo," Shakhray said, "is the dictatorship of law." He recalled that the party which he created is trying to secure reform of the tax system in favor of the producer, cut state spending, and ensure that organs of power and officials are elected by and subordinate to the people rather than higher-ranking officials. Shakhray also promised via the Duma to abolish deputies' immunity "because honest people have nothing to fear."

The PRES leader confirmed his State Duma faction's intention to vote in favor of a change in the current electoral law, in particular for the abolition of the 5-percent barrier, which would bar the bulk of the

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population from taking part in the elections, but he is not sure that these attempts will be successful.

When asked by one reporter about the coming presidential elections, Sergey Mikhaylovich added with a smile: "I will be president of Russia, but I have no intention of running in 1996."

'Union of Labor' Leaders Outline Platform

MM0711113895 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Mentyukova: "Order Means Employment, Pay, and the Rule of Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of the "Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia-Union of Labor" political bloc — Vladimir Shcherbakov, leader of the Industrial Party; Mikhail Shmakov, chairman of FITUR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia]; and Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs — see their program for saving Russia as follows: If everyone in the country is guaranteed pay, employment, and the rule of law, everything in our country will be in order.

"Union of Labor" is campaigning for a Russian breakthrough. The breakthrough of the country into the ranks of the world's leading powers. Industrial growth and fair taxes, honorable and well-paid labor, advanced science and national culture — these are the progressive trends. "Union of Labor" is an association of activists from the trade union movement, the engineering and technical intelligentsia, and workers.

"Union of Labor" is critical of the State Duma's legislative activity. While paying tribute to the customs and civil codes which it has adopted, the bloc's leaders consider all these achievements to be a feeble result of two years' work. The most important questions of land, exports and imports, and the funding of industrial enterprises have not been resolved. There is no proper law on pensions or on combating unemployment....

Will members of "Union of Labor" cooperate with representatives of other electoral blocs? Undoubtedly. But not with those who divide people along ethnic lines. Such a practice has already led to Chechnya. Incidentally, concerning the "Chechen crisis," "Union of Labor" members are unanimous — the problem must be solved exclusively through peaceful means. But we should not pump trillions of rubles into the shattered republic's economy, as many are proposing. First and foremost we need to revive the industrial sectors from which investments can be recouped in a short time, for example — oil production.

Daily Unable To Publish Free Election Material

MM0611145995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 1

[Announcement by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Editorial Collegium: "For the Information of Electoral Blocs!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carried in its issue No. 209 for 2 November tariffs for the publication of election materials on a paying basis. The editorial board thereby confirmed its desire to cooperate with electoral blocs and associations and with candidate deputies of the State Duma.

At the same time we report that ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI weekly publishes four pages of official documents which come into force only after their publication in our newspaper. This is despite the fact that ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI is only 25-percent funded out of the budget. The editorial board has not yet received the promised appropriations to cover expenditure connected with the free publication of election materials.

The editorial board is also unable to fulfill the requirement of Article 47 of the Federal Law "On Elections of Deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma," according to which the newspaper is obliged to "ensure equal opportunities for the publication of election campaign materials" for all associations and blocs. A Central Electoral Commission instruction requires the leadership of the editorial board to cast lots among them and, on this basis, to draw up a schedule of publications which has to be approved before 5 November. In order to participate in the casting of lots, according to the instruction, the blocs must submit to the editorial board the document on the registration of the federal list of candidates no later than the third day after registration. But, for well-known reasons, the third day will come only after 5 November for a number of blocs. The Central Electoral Commission has not answered the repeated question of how the editorial board must act in this case — violate the instruction or the law?

Under these conditions ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI is unable to publish election materials free of charge.

Conference Calls For Postponement of Elections

MM0611141995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Campaign To Defer Elections Started Up in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Deferring the elections to the State Duma for three to six months was the recommendation of leading Russian political scientists at a con-

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ference held in Moscow in the premises of the Russian sociopolitical center. Thus the idea of putting off the elections, which for quite a long time now has been exercising many political minds, has finally been expressed. And at quite a high level. The Russian Federation president's aide G. Starov took part in the conference, although only as an observer, it is true.

The conference participants believe that deferring the elections is essential to ensure that the present deputies' corps can submit changes and additions to the existing law on parliamentary elections, considering the mistakes revealed during the current election campaign. The political scientists' main complaint about the law is that it presupposes the extremely low legitimacy of the elected deputies' corps. The law, they believe, encourages an increase in the number of electoral associations as a result of which the 5-percent barrier which has been set is insurmountable for the majority of such associations. As a result it is entirely likely that candidates supported by an absolute minority of voters will get into the Duma.

Indeed, the conference participants suggest deferring the elections as an extreme measure. It is entirely possible to convene an extraordinary session of the State Duma and to adopt the necessary measures during it without interrupting the electoral process, they believe.

It is characteristic that the call to defer the elections was heard on the wave of the campaign of criticism of the law on elections which began a while ago. It is not ruled out that it is c a case of a coordinated action in whose success very influential political forces (particularly since the refusal to register the "Derzhava" movement and the "Yabloko" party) are interested today.

Regional Activities

Ryzhkov Presents 'Power to the People!' in Kuzbass

964F0276A Kemerovo KUZNETSKIY KRAY in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Vasiliy Popok, under the "Visits" rubric: "The Sentimental Nikolay Ivanovich"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday and today, a guest of the Kuzbass is our old acquaintance Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, the head of the last government of the USSR. At the height of the Gorbachev reforms, he came to see us and then got very upset at the barracks lifestyle of the Prokopyevsk miners. This presented some quick journalists with the occasion to christen Ryzhkov "the weeping Bolshevik," as in the famous poem by the proletarian writer Mayakovskiy.

Today Nikolay Ivanovich is presenting the electoral bloc Power to the People!, which is striving to get into the State Duma, arm in arm with their like-thinkers from the Communist and Agrarian Parties. Ryzhkov also sympathizes with the bloc People's Power, which was born in Kuzbass of Aman Tuleyev.

Nikolay Ryzhkov does not like Russia Is Our Home or Viktor Chernomyrdin personally, whom he knew previously as a competent economic manager and upon whom he had placed his hopes; but Chernomyrdin did not justify those hopes and is leading Russia to the brink of a precipice. Nikolay Ivanovich does not approve of another old acquaintance, namely his fellow Sverdlovsk native Boris Yeltsin—he broke up the CPSU and created his personal bureaucratic apparat of 2,500 persons, whereas during Ryzhkov's tenure there were 2,000 in all of the Council of Ministers. Ryzhkov has a negative attitude toward Mikhail Gorbachev, who betrayed, in Nikolay Ivanovich's opinion, the country, the party, and the state. Among the bad he also reckons Eduard Shevardnadze, who became a foreigner, while the brash young men Yuriy Skokov, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Yegor Gaydar, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy he does not deign to notice—they are fumblers, extremists, "lab chiefs."

Nikolay Ivanovich intends to transform his spiritual sympathy for the miners into something more constructive than tears. Therefore, another of our old acquaintances, Mikhail Shchadov, the USSR coal minister, will be running along with him in the Kuzbass from Power to the People. Both major leaders, who have already spent some time at the helm and who have now become aspirants to the position of State Duma deputy, plan on expressing to the miners their deep sympathy and to remind them, in particular, of the famed Government Decree No. 608, according to which the coal miners have begun to be paid hardship pay, have had their leave increased, and have been given other boons.

Nikolay Ryzhkov is now an advocate of perestroyka according to the Chinese formulas, according to which it is necessary to go out on "the new model" of the economy gradually, holding the base branches of the national economy in state hands. At the same time, he is for a multiplicity of forms of ownership, and therefore, when he comes to power, he does not promise "across-the-board nationalization." He does promise that everything will be good, as it was before (for example, in 1989), but only even better than under Decree No. 608.

The "weeping Bolshevik" produced a very pleasant impression—handsome, not decrepit, in many things correct, and, possibly, wise. It is true, his violent rejection of his old brothers-in-arms, along with whom he began it all, is somehow disturbing. All of them are the same breed of beast. After all, they sat together in the

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Kremlin and planned "strategic perestroyka." They lived at the same dachas. They vacationed at the very same Sochi. Only those menagerie dwellers who sat with Ryzhkov out of the Kremlin, dachas, and Sochi, have turned out to be less sentimental—those ones would not let fall a tear; those crocodiles could not be moved to pity with barracks. To put it concisely, our good Nikolay Ivanovich is weak; oh, will he be able to defeat his foes....

Candidates Contest 11 Seats in Moscow District

LD0611152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 6 (INTERFAX) — Twenty seven members of the State Duma are contesting 11 Duma mandates in the one-mandate election districts of the Moscow Oblast, the Moscow Oblast electoral commission told INTERFAX.

Among the twenty seven are the chairman of the Duma international affairs committee Vladimir Lukin (YaBLoko faction), the chairman of the defense committee Sergey Yushenkov (Russia's Choice), the chairman of the labor and social safety net programs committee Sergey Kalashnikov (Liberal Democrats), the chairman of the municipal self-government committee Anatoliy Sliva (Russian Unity and Accord Party), the chairperson of the health care committee Bela Denisenko (Forward, Russia!), and the chairman of the geopolitics committee Viktor Ustinov (Rybkin bloc).

The deputy chairman of the Federation Council Anatoliy Dolgolaptev also intends to run for a Duma mandate in the Moscow Oblast. He was nominated by the bloc of Russian labor unions and industrialists.

Four members of the Moscow Oblast legislature and five Duma staff workers are running against these.

All in all, 167 men and women are running for the 11 Moscow Oblast seats in the State Duma. The names of many of them also feature on federal party tickets.

Election Guidelines

Daily Sees 'Obvious Flaws' in Electoral Law

MM0611134095 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Vasiliy Golovin under the "Question of the Week" rubric: "Will the Elections Take Place or Not?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A total of 38 electoral blocs and associations have reached the final lap. The question of the registration of "Yabloko" and "Derzhava" was being decided by the Supreme Court yesterday.

The most skillful playwright could not have thought up a richer plot than the one presented by real life. The refusal to register "Yabloko" almost caused an avalanche. And there is still no guarantee that one will not occur.

Many people's eyes were opened as to the obvious flaws of the law. Even Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the lower chamber, has spoken about this publicly. The law, in his opinion, may cast doubt upon the representative nature of the future Duma (only 2-4 percent of electoral blocs will cross the 5-percent threshold and, as a result, they will represent the minority of the population). Consequently the law must be amended without delay. An action group has started collecting signatures in favor of convening an extraordinary sitting of the Duma.

At the same time, thousands of curses assailed Nikolay Ryabov, the obedient chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. Both just and unjust reproaches. Just in the sense that the Central Electoral Commission does not nevertheless exercise judicial power in the country. But Ryabov does have some justification — how can the observance of the rules of the electoral game be monitored if power is not exercised. That is the whole question — how accurately did the members of the Central Electoral Commission interpret the law. According to Deputy Vladimir Lepekhin, they clearly turned its articles inappropriately into instructional norms. And that is how it all started.

Whatever may have happened, there is only one thing that concerns everyone now — what will happen next? It is 70 percent likely that no amendments will be made to the law. The factions of Zyuganov, Lapshin, and Zhirinovskiy will unite and block them. They do not need this. Even now they are ready to throw a banquet to celebrate the imminent victory.

And then what? Deputy Irina Khakamada, leader of the "Common Cause" association, stated that signatures have already been collected for an appeal to the Constitutional Court regarding the flaws in the law on elections. When will the Constitutional Court deal with it? Will it really abandon all other matters, and, with reference to the political situation, start examining the Duma appeal as a top priority? This is unlikely.

Consequently.... Will the elections be postponed? So, for two years people suspected the president and his entourage of shady ideas and secret intentions to postpone and disrupt the elections, while themselves doing all they could to ensure that this would be possible.

Gaydar's readiness to boycott the elections is symptomatic in this sense. And these are not mere words. Public statements by other candidates from "Russia's

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Democratic Choice" confirm that they are really prepared to take this moral and political step in the specific circumstances.

So the intrigue over the upcoming elections does not end there. The president's illness and the unsteady peace in Chechnya create extra tension. To be continued. Alas.

Daily: Legality 'Not So Important After All'

MK0411064895 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Nov 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by Natalya Arkhangelskaya: "Central Electoral Commission Will Satisfy Practically All"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] has virtually completed registration of electoral blocs and associations, and first conclusions can now be drawn. The main one is this: Those coming to the polls on 17 December would have to make exceptional mental efforts to fulfill their civic duty. They would have to choose from among two score of contenders because the TsIK has registered (or will register) virtually all of them.

Many people know that even before the "Yabloko" scandal the TsIK refused to register several contenders, the most prominent among them Democratic Russia and "Derzhava." But the only loud public reaction was provoked by the refusal to register "Yabloko," following which everybody began to clamor that Nikolay Ryabov was screening candidates in compliance with a social order. Whose order? Many meaningfully nodded toward the Kremlin.

To be accurate, "Democratic Russia" was not refused registration. Its signatures, which came in minutes before the deadline, were not accepted because the TsIK had no time to enter them in its ledgers. When "Democratic Russia" appealed, the Supreme Court refused to abet the slowness of the commission staffers and restored justice. The bloc, nevertheless, did not make use of the fruits of justice and virtually announced its own dissolution. It has transpired that Galina Starovoytova, No. 1 in the bloc's federal list, had registered back in mid-October in a St. Petersburg single-seat district as an independent candidate — which she can only do if she is deleted from the "Democratic Russia" list. Thus the "Democratic Russia" leaders ruined their own bloc even before Ryabov's commission made its decision.

Even if we suppose that the TsIK was fulfilling some sort of an order, this raises many questions. "Democratic Russia" has a radical democratic orientation and hence could certainly divert voting support away from Gaydar or Boris Fedorov, but in no way from the powerful Chernomyrdin or Rybkin, let alone the opposition. Moreover "Democratic Russia" is a clear outsider never rated higher than 12th in the polls, and it is this, one would think, that caused its disbandment. Hence it was a danger to no one, and there was no point at all in "blowing it away."

The situation is a little more complicated as far as "Derzhava" is concerned. But, again, Rutskoy's movement is no rival to the government blocs: It shares its electorate primarily with the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], but it can very well lay claim to those who favor the Communist Party. The ex-vice president could have been of use to the present government by snatching votes away from other opposition representatives, for which reason it would have been a greater advantage for the Kremlin and for the White House to let him be rather than refuse registration. Besides, if Rutskoy is withdrawn from the race, he leaves another general — Lebed — without a rival. The generals have many things in common in their program slogans, in the manner in which they conduct propaganda, etc., hence they have the same voters. Although, realistically, it has to be admitted that Rutskoy, with his constant 10th spot in surveys, cannot really hope for success. He has little chance of getting into the Duma and even less of winning the presidency.

Also among those hurt is the Independents' Bloc — which is totally incomprehensible, assuming that the TsIK chairman consults the authorities. Bloc chief ideologist Ilya Roytman is one of the masterminds of the public committee to nominate Yeltsin for the presidency set up this past summer. Who then could have advised to Ryabov to make life difficult for the pro-president bloc?

There is also a different view: The Commission head works for the Communists rather than for Yeltsin. But why then should he have "knocked out" Yavlinskiy, who was then followed by Gaydar, thus effectively strengthening Chernomyrdin's "Our Home"? This sort of pluralism in one mind can have well-known consequences.

Quite possibly, Ryabov is no ray of light in the realm of darkness of the Russian establishment, but he does act quite sensibly. One more proof of which is that, in the wake of the "Yabloko" scandal, he decided against tempting fate and refused registration to clear outsiders, namely the Union of Building Caretakers and the Transport Employees' Movement — which look outlandish outfits on the Russian patchwork political landscape — and the Patriots' Union led by Aleksandr Sterligov. Wising up to the fact that it was clearly short of the signature target, this association hastened to announce its withdrawal from the race, supposedly in sympathy with Rutskoy. Supporters of the former

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KGB general will hardly go to court, any more than the building caretakers and transport employees.

Democracy has triumphed: Practically all those who reported to the TsIK building on Ilyinka before 22 October with signatures have been cleared for the elections. Who cares if they include some with up to 60 percent of their signatures defective — they still have to face the voters. Yavlinskiy's voters, too, should not worry: They will surely not be left out in the cold. "Derzhava" supporters will also have someone to vote for. That Article 23 in the Law on Elections saying that TsIK's function is to supervise the legality of elections is not so important after all. The important thing is that everyone is happy.

It is impossible to understand why the public should have become so excited after realizing that TsIK wielded some power. This is only natural. The commission was created in order to see if parties and associations have legal grounds for taking part in elections rather than in order to automatically register all comers. Control always implies power. It may of course appear strange that the TsIK is located, for example, in the same premises on Staraya Ploshchad where the Presidential Staff is quartered. The district commissions are being housed in the premises of the prefectures. Such proximity is dubious. But this can be rectified by, say, passing a law on public monitoring of elections. Such a draft law has been around for a long time, but the Duma refuses to pass it. Not surprisingly — the lower house deputies are among the most active participants in the present electoral campaign.

Forecasts & Commentary

Daily Compares TsIK Bans on Derzhava, Yabloko

MM0611214495 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Olga Gerasimenko and Dmitriy Babich: "Yavlinskiy Appeals to the Supreme Court and Ryabov Appeals to the Supreme Being"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of today, 37 electoral associations have been officially registered by the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK]. The latest to pass through the TsIK turnpike is Aleksandr Rutskoy's "Derzhava" social-patriotic movement. Rutskoy's participation in the elections became possible thanks to a Supreme Court ruling, which decreed that "Derzhava's" leadership had not broken the law in striking off 86 candidates from its list directly before the registration. "Derzhava's" attorney managed to convince the Supreme Court that the TsIK cannot disqualify electoral associations "for technical reasons." In his opinion, only the court can ban a movement — which has collected more than 200,000 signatures — from participating in the elections. The court agreed with this flattering assessment of its own powers, and overturned the ban.

Russian justice was more stern with regard to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's "Yabloko," which also submitted an appeal against the TsIK to the Supreme Court. Despite the fact that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's violation was to have struck off from his list not 86 candidates, like Rutskoy, but just six. In an interview with journalists immediately after the court hearing ended on Friday [3 November], Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said that he considered the most important event to have been the testimony of Valeriy Galchenko, deputy chairman of the Moscow Oblast Duma.

According to Galchenko, the TsIK had tried to make him write a statement to the effect that he had not given his consent for his candidacy to be excluded from the association's federal list. "This attempt was made by officials of the TsIK apparatus on the instructions of the TsIK's senior leadership," G. Yavlinskiy stated.

However, the court hearing showed that "Yabloko's" election campaign had been organized hopelessly badly. Yuriy Kazmin, a former "Yabloko" candidate, who was among the six candidates struck off the list, told the court that he still wanted to run for election to the Duma on the "Yabloko" ticket. This makes Yavlinskiy's position in the court particularly shaky. Kazmin gathered 14,000 signatures for "Yabloko" in his region in Kemerovo. How is it possible to explain to voters why the man for whom they collected these signatures has been ejected from the election race?

The other five "disputed" candidates put the shambles which had arisen down to bad fax machines and the slow postal service, as a result of which their statements of their voluntary decision not to run simply did not reach the TsIK.

"Yabloko's" post office troubles do not end there. Even in the event of a positive ruling by the Supreme Court in the "Yabloko" case, the TsIK will not examine its registration before 8 November. Although the Supreme Court is only 1 km from the TsIK, papers cannot be delivered from one office to the other in less than 24 hours. Rutskoy also met with this hurdle: The official paper carrying the court's verdict on his case arrived in the TsIK 24 hours after the hearing itself.

On Friday evening Nikolay Ryabov, who had been informed of the court's ruling orally, ambiguously told our correspondent: "We will see what grounds the court had to make these decisions. If we are satisfied with the court's reasoning, we will approve and register 'Derzhava.' If not, we will protest." True, it is not clear

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where Nikolay Ryabov intends to protest the Supreme Court's ruling: Only the Lord God is a higher authority than this court.

The TsIK chairman also said that the electoral associations will draw lots to determine the order on the ballot paper and the allocation of air time directly after the November holidays. Ryabov reacted sharply to the initiative of certain Duma members aimed at hastily rehashing the Law on Elections: "This is an absurdity — childish games unworthy of politicians. Society should get accustomed to the existing law."

Premier, Zyuganov Discuss Economy, Election Law

LD0311140695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1115 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — A meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the Russian Government, and Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, held on Thursday [2 November], was "a regular one," the leader of the Russian Communists stressed today in a conversation with this correspondent. According to Zyuganov, the conversation with Viktor Chernomyrdin was held within the framework of the head of government's meetings with leaders of major political parties.

In particular, Zyuganov shared his observations on the state of the Russian economy and on preparations of the national economy for the winter period with the head of government. The leader of the Communist Party believes that the situation which has developed in these spheres is very difficult and it was extremely important for him to exchange opinions with Chernomyrdin on this issue and to find out what the government plans to do in this regard. "Irrespective of the color of one's party card and who will come to power tomorrow, any government should tackle the same tasks: To feed and clothe the population and keep them warm — these are the issues we discussed with the head of the government," Zyuganov stressed. Incidentally, he reported that at the meeting issues had been raised relating to interaction between Russia and Ukraine and Belarus and the restoration of comprehensive links between the Russian Federation and the former Soviet republics as a whole.

Zyuganov stressed that the discussion of electoral matters had been an important topic of the conversation and, in particular, the attempts by some political forces to discredit the results of the elections or to wreck them completely.

In connection with this, replying to a question, the Communist party leader emphasized that the talks about possible amendments to the law on the election of deputies to the State Duma, to be made before 17 December, were being conducted by those who could not be sure of crossing the 5-percent hurdle. He pointed out that it was they who were proposing that the 5-percent hurdle should be lowered or abolished altogether during the time remaining before the elections.

In Zyuganov's view, talk to the effect that if the hurdle remains in place, only two or three electoral associations will enter the Duma does not make sense. He thinks that at least six and maybe even 10 electoral blocs will find their way into the chamber. Thus, the whole political spectrum will be adequately represented in the Duma. Amendments to the law can certainly be made he stressed but the next elections should be conducted in accordance with these amendments, while everything else will mean "a gross violation of the established rules of the game."

Ivanchenko Previews Next Stage of Campaign

MM0611161395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Saturday Edition in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "New Stage of Election Campaign Will Start 5 November"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new stage of the election campaign — election agitation — begins in press periodicals 5 November and on all-Russia television channels and radio stations 15 November. Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, has emphasized that compliance with legality remains the chief task in carrying it out. Attempts to violate electoral legislation will be carefully monitored and stopped without delay. "The guilty persons will be taken out of the running," Ivanchenko emphasized.

Assessing the election measures already implemented, the deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission pointed out that the current election campaign differs from the one two years ago in terms of not only quantity (the number of electoral associations) but also quality. Yes, the mixed system of proportional representation and first past the post is complex ("it would be simpler to fight district by district"), but it would be a mistake to revise the electoral legislation now.

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The first stage of collecting signatures and the stage of registering electoral associations, which ends 4 November, have shown, in Ivanchenko's opinion, a somewhat frivolous attitude toward election measures by a whole number of blocs and parties. Certain candidates, for example, were included in the federal lists without their consent. It was largely because of this that the list of the "[faith healer] Dzhuna's Bloc" diminished from 267 candidacies to less than 100.

In Aleksandr Ivanchenko's opinion, the voters' activeness in the elections due 17 December will be incomparably greater than in 1993. Although the voting papers will be very large ("It will be a sheet," Ivanchenko graphically described the voting paper in answer to a question from ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent), the Central Electoral Commission hopes that the voters will make their choice in a conscious manner.

Voters See NDR, CPRF Getting Majority in Duma

MK0311145795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Oleg Savelyev: "Population Agrees With Sociologists in Election Result Forecasts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A representative poll of the federation's entire adult population, based on a sample of approximately 2,400, conducted by the All-Russia Public Opinion Study Center [VTSIOM] in September-October 1995, produced the following answers to the question: "How do you assess the [election] chances of the (name) party/movement?"

[Abbreviations used in the following table: NDR — Russia Is Our Home; CPRF — Communist Party of the Russian Federation; KRO — Congress of Russian Communities; APR — Agrarian Party; LDPR — Liberal Democratic Party; DVR — Russia's Democratic Choice; PNS — People's Self-Management Party; ZhR — Women of Russia; PES — Economic Freedom Party; DR — Democratic Russia]

Party/Movement	Will get majority in Duma	Will have strong position in Duma	Will just barely get into Duma	No chance of getting into Duma	Don't Know
NDR (Chernomyrdin)	15	23	12	4	46
CPRF (Zyuganov)	12	24	13	5	46
KRO (Skokov, Lebed)	7	20	14	5	54
Yavlinskiy bloc	6	23	15	4	52
APR (Lapshin)	6	19	13	5	57
LDPR (Zhirinovskiy)	6	15	17	16	46
DVR (Gaydar)	5	18	18	10	49
PNS (Sv. Fedorov)	5	17	16	5	57
ZhR (Lakhova)	3	14	19	8	56
Derzhava (Rutskoy)	2	11	20	13	54
Forward Russia! (B. Fedorov)	2	12	17	7	62
Power to the People! (N. Ryzhkov)	2	7	16	17	59
Republican Party (Pamfilova)	2	7	14	11	66
PES (Borovoy)	1	6	15	12	66
DR (Starovoytova)	1	5	14	16	64

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Daily Details Meeting of CIS Heads of Government

MM0611100695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Chernomyrdin Has Reminded His CIS Counterparts that Charity and Trade 'Are Two Very Different Things'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a five-month pause in the activity of the CIS supreme collective organs, the CIS heads of government met in Moscow again 3 November for another summit. They met in the President Hotel without the heads of state, as was traditionally done before, and there is an explanation for this departure from standard practice: In the period under review no breakthrough toward closer integration in the political or economic spheres has been achieved in mutual relations between the CIS countries.

V. Chernomyrdin mentioned this when he opened the session.

Noting that it is the last one this year and that some results can be summed up, the premier announced that 47 agreements have been adopted, an Interstate Economic Committee and customs and payments unions have been created. But the burden of unresolved problems is not diminishing. In particular the CIS states are in arrears to the Russian fuel and energy complex to the tune of 14 trillion rubles [R] including R12 trillion for gas. The sum of arrears on state credits which Russia has supplied to its partners in recent years is $5.8 billion. Unless the debts are returned it will become very hard to trade, the Russian premier said.

The session then proceeded behind closed doors and the content of the debate can be judged only by the agreements and decisions prepared. The differences in them are obvious. Notable on this plane was the report of the Interstate Economic Committee, which proposed delegating to that organ additional powers which would make it possible to adopt operational decisions on questions of the formation of the Economic Union and the activity of its organs. This problem has been frequently discussed by heads of state and premiers. Nonetheless the Armenian representatives insisted on excluding those points in the draft decision which would give the Interstate Economic Committee the right to approve statutes and rules of collective organs and their estimated expenses. Azerbaijan and Ukraine have an even tougher stance: They are against the Interstate Economic Committee's powers to make operational decisions and see no need to create supranational organs.

Using the debate on this issue as an example one can see a general key problem which the CIS states' leaders are encountering whenever they try to remove obstacles on the path toward closer integration. The national legislators of a number of states do not allow them to be members of unions which could restrict national sovereignty. Hence the problems which are delaying the solution of all kinds of economic tasks beginning with the coordination of standards and tariffs and ending with the elaboration of a single economic policy.

The "summit" participants' decision providing for the creation of an international scientific and technical cooperation fund can be considered a success. Using collective subscriptions it is planned to create international scientific centers on the basis of the A.F. Ioffre physics and technical institute in St. Petersburg and the Ye.O. Paton Electrowelding Institute interbranch scientific technical complex in Kiev. There was an examination of measures to ensure the free transit of natural gas. It is a case of using a special agreement to exclude conditions under which local authorities could interfere in the operational activity of pipeline transport enterprises. The Azerbaijan side immediately stipulated that this document should not be an obstacle to the adoption of sovereign measures to protect its interests. Georgia would like to receive gas as payment for this fuel's transit across its territory.

It is also gratifying that the information space will not be destroyed. In accordance with the decision which was adopted the Information Council, which units national news agencies, intends to create a new world information pool. Your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by one of the leaders of the Information Council, Yu. Sizov, that a program costing $8 million has been prepared. If it is implemented all national agencies will be able to go out onto the world information market while newspapers will be instantly disseminated across the entire CIS territory.

The heads of government also discussed the bloc of military questions. The most important is the creation and improvement of a joint air defense system and the financing, repair, and updating of arms and military equipment.

The premiers discussed the question of the institution of an interstate coordination center to perpetuate the memory of the defenders of the Fatherland. But they did not manage without disputes in approving the estimated expenditure of the CIS collective organs. For instance, the CIS Executive Committee requires over R26 billion and $100,000, while the Council of Defense Ministers requires over R20 billion, the collective security council secretariat R3.5 billion, and so forth. As a rule Russia should meet half these expenses yet its draft budget for 1996 includes a very modest sum — R5.4 billion — for CIS needs.

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Chernomyrdin Addresses Council

LD0311155495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Report over video by correspondent V. Shirokova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] A meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS countries is taking place in Moscow:

[Shirokova] The meeting was addressed by the council's chairman, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. He called on his colleagues to resolve the problem of nonpayments and settlement of mutual debts before the end of this year. The debts of CIS states for the supply of Russian fuel already amounts to 14,000 trillion rubles [R] and the volume of defaulted debts to Russian enterprises has reached R800 billion. Total debts of CIS states for loans that CIS states have taken out with Moscow amounts to some $6 billion.

Chernomyrdin believes of course that without a prompt solution of these questions it will be difficult to develop relations within the CIS framework.

The Russian prime minister described the formation of a customs and payments union as a priority for the Commonwealth's activity for the near future.

Chernomyrdin also proposed that the style of work of the Council of Heads of Governments should be changed. He takes the view that there should not be an agenda like today's, which contained 20 items, but only the two or three most important topics.

[Announcer] As a result of the meeting, important agreements were signed on the integration of the Commonwealth countries. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin will also hold a number of meetings with his colleagues from the CIS countries today. The creation of a single customs union will be discussed. However, it is obvious that the leaders of the Commonwealth countries are not in the mood for economic problems today. They are more preoccupied by political problems.

CIS Defense Ministers Converge on Key Issues

LD0411202895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 4 Nov 95

[By Boris Kipkeyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 4 (Itar-Tass) — The just-concluded meeting of the CIS defence ministers revealed the convergence of views on key issues, a high-ranking CIS military official said.

Colonel-General Viktor Samsonov, who is in charge of a special body coordinating military cooperation between the CIS states, said at a news conference on Saturday [4 November] that the CIS prime ministers had approved six documents submitted by the military leaders.

Among them were proposals on the procedure for financing, providing material and technical support, and granting customs and other benefits for the purpose of establishing and enhancing a joint air defence system of the CIS states, as well as on the provision of assistance to the CIS countries in establishing and upgrading the air defence system.

Speaking about a joint air defence system, Samsonov stressed that Russia will provide the major portion of funds. The system will be controlled by the Coordinating Committee headed by Russian Air Defence Commander Colonel-General Viktor Prudnikov.

Samsonov also said that the CIS defence ministers had prepared a number of documents to be submitted to the upcoming meeting of the CIS heads of state due to take place in December.

These documents deal in particular with issues concerning social welfare guarantees for the military and the appointment of a new commander of the CIS peacekeeping troops in Tajikistan.

The participants in the meeting recommended the candidature of Lieutenant-General Viktor Zavarzin who currently commands Russian troops in Turkmenistan.

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Politicians Sign Condolences Book at Israeli Embassy

LD0711125295 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A special hall has been opened at the Israeli Embassy in Moscow where people may leave an inscription in a special book of condolences following the killing of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The room was officially opened yesterday.

Moscow Echo radio station learned that among the officials who visited the embassy today were former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, Yabloko movement leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Russia's Democratic Choice party leader Yegor Gaydar, Duma Defense Committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov, and Boris Zolotukhin, member of the political council of the Russia's Choice Duma faction; ambassadors to Moscow from about 25 states also paid their respects.

Chernomyrdin Gives Clinton Message From Yeltsin

LD0711070495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0630 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tel Aviv, 7 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who attended the funeral of assassinated Israeli leader Yitzhaq Rabin, held a brief meeting in Jerusalem on Monday evening with U.S. President Bill Clinton, who also attended the funeral.

Viktor Chernomyrdin briefed the U.S. President on Boris Yeltsin's state of health. The Russian prime minister conveyed a message from Yeltsin to Clinton, saying that [the former] is hoping to have a personal meeting with the U.S. President soon.

Israeli Envoy Upbeat on Israeli-Russian Relations

LD0611210795 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2025 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A solemn meeting was held at the Israeli embassy in Moscow today. Mrs. Aliza Shenhar, Israel's ambassador to Russia, addressed those present. She said that only time will show the real consequences of the tragedy, but it was already clear that Yitzhaq Rabin's cynical assassination marked a turning point in the history of the State of Israel.

Yitzhaq Rabin is known as a man who has done a great deal for Russia and Israel to reach mutual understanding. Will his death affect the relations between our countries?

Replying to this question in her exclusive interview for the Moscow 2x2 Television news service, Mrs. Aliza Shenhar said:

[Begin Shenhar recording, in Hebrew with superimposed Russian translation] The relations between Russia and Israel are at such level of each side understanding the other's interests, that even the death of the man who was at the source of this cooperation cannot affect them adversely, all the more so because the current acting prime minister was Yitzhaq Rabin's closest associate and always shared his views concerning the relations between our two countries. [end recording]

Looking ahead to the development of events in the Near East, Mrs. Shenhar said that peace initiatives represented a one way street — it is hardly possible to turn back.

Yeltsin Regrets Postponement of China, Norway Visits

LD0611182395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1717 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today sent messages to Jiang Zemin, president of the People's Republic of China, and King Harald V of Norway, expressing regret that the visits by the head of the Russian state to China and Norway cannot take place at the previously appointed time. This was announced today by the president's press service.

Boris Yeltsin voiced his firm conviction that these visits will take place in the not too distant future. Their timing will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Army Commander on Revising CFE Flank Limitations

LD0611201595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1157 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS observer Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Common sense demands a review of the provisions of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) of 19 November 1990, regarding the flank limitations. Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin, head of the Main Armored Troops Department of the Russian Defense Ministry, whom the ITAR-TASS observer talked to, believes that "to date for the Russian war department there has been no nastier strangulation of Russia's defense interests than the agreement of the then leadership of the USSR (under Mikhail Gorbachev — author's note) to the conditions of flank limitations."

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Although the general was expressing his personal opinion, it is hard not to agree with him. Strictly following the conditions of the CFE Treaty, by 16 November, Russia is to have destroyed 3,520 tanks and 5,684 armored vehicles, leaving in this region 6,400 tanks and 11,480 armored vehicles. But the flank limitations oblige us to adhere to certain quotas for the presence of armored vehicles in the so-called "flank region," which for Russia concerns the Leningrad and North Caucasus Military Districts.

It should be recalled that under the CFE Treaty the USSR had in the "flank area," including Leningrad, North Caucasus, Transcaucasus, and Odessa Military Districts, the right to deploy 1,850 tanks, 1,800 armored vehicles, and 2,775 artillery systems of 100 mm caliber and more. After the collapse of the union and the redistribution of treaty obligations among the former union republics, Russia received the right to have in its regular units on its flanks in the Leningrad and North Caucasus Military Districts a total of 700 tanks, 580 armored vehicles, and 1,280 artillery systems.

The permitted number of heavy weapons for these two districts, taking up more than half of the European part of Russia's territory, is obviously insufficient. This fact became especially obvious after the aggravation of the situation in the North Caucasus and NATO's intentions to expand eastward.

The redistribution of the commitments of the former union meant that in the so-called "area of expanded central Europe" Russia could have on the territory of Kaliningrad Region, with an area of 15,000 square km, six times more tanks and 15 times more armored vehicles than in the whole "flank area" of Leningrad and North Caucasus Military Districts. This situation forces Russia to concentrate most of its conventional armaments on the territories of Kaliningrad Region, and along the borders with Belarus and Ukraine.

In this connection the Russian war department asked the signatory states of the CFE to review the flank quotas. The essence of this request is to take out of the flank limitations a number of regions and territories of the North Caucasus and St. Petersburg regions of Russia.

According to the available information, most of the members of the joint consultative group on the implementation of the CFE Treaty, based in Vienna, supported these proposals in principle. But so far Turkey has been categorically against such changes in the North Caucasus. A number of north European states have also failed to define their position on the possibility of the removal of Leningrad Region from the "flank area."

Nuclear Energy Committee To Expand Foreign Cooperation

LD0611152295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1459 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 6 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Nuclear Energy Committee intends to expand cooperation with foreign partners, First Deputy Minister Lev Ryabev told INTERFAX.

It hopes to collect $1.2 billlion in foreign trade revenues this year and as much as $1.5 billion in 1996.

The Ministry sees the South-East Asian market as highly promising. "Although no deals have been signed yet, a number of nations, including Indonesia, have shown interest in nuclear power production ventures," Ryabev said.

Russia is building plant for enriching uranium in China. The construction works are to take two to three years. The Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry hopes to reap several million dollars in dividends from the realization of this venture and spend the money on research and the promotion of upgraded technologies, Ryabev said.

Two thirds of the Ministry's foreign trade revenues come from the sale of nuclear fuel to the United States, France, Germany, East European countries and a number of former Soviet republics.

Forum on International Nuclear Proliferation Reviewed

MM0611145495 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Ella Ivanova under the rubric "New Look at a Problem": "Will the Nuclear Bomb Appear on the Black Market? Nuclear Ambitions Seen Through the Prism of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The world is constantly shaken by sensational cases involving the interception of enriched uranium and plutonium and various incidents of the theft of nuclear materials by the nuclear mafia. This was the subject of a seminar entitled "International Security Dilemmas and the Former Soviet Union" held under the auspices of the Russian-American Information Press Center, which finished its work recently. The Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service [SVR] cites some interesting data on these topical issues.

Following the end of the Cold War, the world, as we know, finally understood that the new, and most dangerous, challenge to mankind was the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. It was for this reason that

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as long ago as March 1970 the well-known Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty came into force.

However, the treaty's fate, whatever it may be, will inevitably affect Russia's strategic policy, and will also have a serious impact on the interests of national security. The appearance of new nuclear countries on the Russian Federation's borders would destabilize the situation in the near abroad zone. This, in its turn, could lead to a revision of the guidelines of Russia's defense policy, including its nuclear component.

The SVR's analysts tried to set out their appraisal of the prospects for shoring up the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

The "nuclear future" of, for example, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and especially Ukraine became, following their acquisition of sovereignty, a serious problem for both Russia and the United States, which has made serious steps to accommodate their interests, seeking to accelerate the process of eliminating nuclear weapons on the territory of these states as quickly as possible.

Today around 600 strategic nuclear warheads have already been conveyed from Ukraine to Russia. The withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Belarus and Kazakhstan is also under way. It is planned that by the end of 1996 not a single nuclear warhead will remain in these countries.

However, despite the fact that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has been in force for 25 years, there exists a group of states in the world which are developing their own military programs and which are not signed up to the treaty. These are Israel, India, and Pakistan. According to the Russian Federation SVR's analysts, they have become de facto possessors of military nuclear means, taking advantage of their nonparticipation in the treaty.

Of course, the status of these countries is not identical in every respect. Whereas one of them, backed by the powerful support of its strategic ally, is outwardly unperturbed by criticism of its status as an "unofficial" nuclear state, the others, feeling considerably powerful pressure from the international community, suggest ways of signing up to the treaty which superficially make concessions, but which effectively reject the treaty. These countries are the major threat to the nonproliferation regime.

For example, in 1991 a UN special commission found that one of the parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty — Iraq — was conducting military nuclear activity extremely actively. This was discovered essentially by chance.

But sometimes restrictions in the sphere of nuclear weapons are dictated by no means by the interests of nonproliferation, but by far more prosaic aims, connected with the competitive battle on the markets.

Thus, for example, the United States sharply opposed the agreements signed by Russian and Iran in the sphere of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Especially strong criticism was provoked by the agreement for the delivery to Iran by Russia of light-water nuclear reactors, which cannot be used effectively to generate the necessary fissionable materials of weapons-grade standard. Moreover, the agreements provide for IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] control of all nuclear facilities installed in Iran.

Many countries today have a nuclear potential of one sort or another, on which world security depends. Algeria, for example, does not possess the scientific, technical, or material resources to create nuclear weapons. Argentina possesses the most developed nuclear industry among the Latin American countries. There are no reports of the existence of such weapons in Egypt. India belongs to the list of countries which unofficially possess nuclear weapons. The precedent for acquiring "special status" set by the DPRK and also the failure to settle the North Korean "nuclear problem" continue to alarm the world community.

At one time Western experts listed Libya as one of the "most dangerous" countries on account of practical military research conducted in that country in the sphere of weapons of mass destruction. However in recent times they have confessed that this assessment was clearly exaggerated.

Russian SVR analysts claim that Pakistani nuclear technology is at a considerably high level. The Republic of Korea does not have its own nuclear weapons. American tactical nuclear weapons, to judge by a statement by the SRA [as published] and the ROK, have been withdrawn from that country's territory.

Taiwan, while capable of developing the components of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, does not, however, possess nuclear weapons.

The RSA [Republic of South Africa] signed up to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state. Japan also does not possess nuclear weapons or the means to deliver them. The Romanian nuclear energy program today gives experts grounds to infer a peaceful orientation.

These are just a few data which suggest that in this situation it is impossible to ensure against nuclear theft, smuggling, terrorism, and the illegal export of weapons of mass destruction. True, to this day not one such case

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has been recorded in international practice. But there exists a very strange phenomenon: Nonweapons-grade nuclear materials circulate illegally side by side with the normal commercial market in nuclear materials; moreover, prices for individual consignments of such materials continue to remain two-to-three times higher on the black market than in official commercial circulation.

The Russian special services possess proof that the "sensational cases" themselves sometimes arise as a consequence of "demand" and the undiscriminating activity of the police forces of certain countries, and are even artificially encouraged with the aid of big money on the black market.

Nuclear contraband generates nuclear fears. The famous scandal of the contraband plutonium discovered in Germany and its allegedly Russian trail is, according to the conclusion of V. Mikhaylov, head of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy [Minatom], a conspiracy aimed at discrediting the Russian nuclear complex and convincing the world of the lack of proper controls at Minatom enterprises.

Indeed, the West is today interested in constructing new storage facilities and developing a control system with the aid of its firms.

At the same time reports are heard on all sides of the seizure of uranium, plutonium, and radioactive cesium. The Chechen terrorist Basayev recently terrified the world by claiming to possess weapons of mass destruction. But so far the contraband is in insufficient quantities to make an atom bomb. Nor does anyone have the necessary technology to produce one.

Why then do thieves steal nuclear material? The answer is more or less clear — to intimidate, for the purpose of provocation, and, sometimes, for elementary enrichment.

When the in 1994 German Government claimed that it faced the threat of nuclear smuggling from Russia, the demand for plutonium and highly enriched uranium consisted exclusively, the Bundestag control commission noted, of German journalists and plain-clothes agents passing themselves off as customers.

In short, nuclear commodities are valuable. Hence controls must be effective and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty made unassailable. It is essential to do everything so that we never live to see the day when the following conversation becomes current: "How much is an atom bomb these days?" "A reasonable price."

Upswing in Relations With France Viewed

MM0611162695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Russia and France Seem To Be on Friendly Terms, According to the Example Set by Their Presidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — Boris Nikolayevich now has a third friend in the West. After Bill and Helmut, there is now friend Jacques, I was told by a Russian diplomat who has observed the warm embraces between the French and Russian presidents during their recent meeting in Paris.

People from the two presidents' entourages say that this warm friendship, which contrasts so sharply with Yeltsin's cool, strained relations with Mitterrand, is due not only to the knowledge of the Russian language and culture demonstrated by Jacques Chirac but also to the similarity of their characters and temperaments.

Yeltsin and Chirac parted company in Paris and met again the next day in New York where they stood side by side for the photograph of heads of states at the UN anniversary. How can we not rejoice at the fact that, for the first time in the many centuries-old history of bilateral relations, the heads of Russia and France are now on first name terms with one anther!

But what does this heart-warming closeness between Jacques and Boris promise two countries which in recent years have lost their customary privileged relations which used to be a source of mutual pride? It seems that political ties, which were almost frozen, are the first to be revived. (Fortunately, fruitful cultural exchanges remained an undimmed light in the window throughout this cold period).

As I understand it, the rapprochement of political positions was aided by, among other things, the irritation in the two capitals at what they saw as the arrogantly egoistic behavior of the United States in international affairs — it refuses to take account of the aspirations of old allies or new partners alike. That being so, Moscow and Paris can work together to try to counter to some extent the "transatlantic gendarme who is getting out of hand."

The desired balm for our broken and troubled hearts was provided by Chirac's words that Russia was, is, and will remain a great power. The Elysee Palace boss constantly raises the Russian theme at summit meetings with Clinton, Kohl, and Major. The West, he urged, should extend a hand to Yeltsin and through him to the whole of Russia. Russia must not be humiliated and

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therefore it is dangerous to set about expanding NATO without Moscow's consent.

Finally, a new Russian-French Grand Interparliamentary Commission has recently been formed to exert a favorable influence on the whole range of bilateral ties. The men behind it are Ivan Rybkin and Philippe Seguin, chairman of the French National Assembly — a key and most promising French politician who has been most consistent in demanding a rapprochement with Russia and does not want the East Europeans to join NATO.

Meanwhile, economic ties remain an object of special concern for Moscow and Paris — the commonly held opinion is that they are extremely unsatisfactory. France is restricting itself to a dozen Russian foreign trade partners and accounts for just 3 percent of Russia's imports, whereas Germany accounts for 20 percent.

French business circles note that cooperation has been and remains hampered by the lack of stability in Russia and of firm guarantees and a legal basis, and in particular by the absence of the long-awaited law on the sharing of output as well as by the orgy of crime. All these things are true. But in that case why are the Germans, the Italians, and the Americans operating so energetically in such "unhealthy" conditions?

Another reason for the decline is that recently the French have switched to new markets in the Asia and Pacific region while maintaining their European priorities. As a result Russia, as our diplomat told me, was in the "third circle" as far as Paris is concerned.

The traditional French circumspection and caution are deepened by the psychological damage resulting from the Czarist loans whose scar is still borne by the heirs of the several million shareholders who were ruined in this deal. (As I understand it, those loans are the subject of tough bargaining which is going on in strictest secrecy now.)

Another example of our alarming unpredictability comes from the quite recent past. According to the official agreement between Moscow and Paris, Russia had started returning the stolen French archives which it captured from the Germans during the war. However, the process of repatriation was broken off unexpectedly in 1994 on the insistence of the State Duma, which objected to the squandering of other people's assets, and no one knows when it will start again.

Nevertheless, people in Paris are talking about a "new start" in our economic ties.

The French consider it "unseemly" for themselves and their prestige to restrict themselves to a dozen Russian partners. However, it is not just a matter of prestige and seemliness. The World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] believe that Russia has an opportunity to gradually overcome the crisis and move from the prolonged slump toward economic growth. Thus the view on the Seine is that it would be stupid to miss the Russian train in which other Europeans and the Americans have already taken their seats.

In addition, experts note that Russia is embarking on stage two of the highly promising privatization which could attract French capital.

The lobbying of the Russian regions, in which the French have been engaging vigorously of late, is also bearing its first fruit. Representatives of Yaroslavl and Kaliningrad Oblasts, Udmurtia, Bashkortostan, and Stavropol Kray have visited France. Representatives of Tyumen are now expected here. For the French the development of direct ties with the regions is regarded as a promising innovation.

Importance of Russian-Greek Relations Examined

MM0611125495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Vadim Markushin under the "Observer's Notes" rubric: "Greek Accents. Today They Must Acquire a New Tone in Russia's Balkan Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The official visit which Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev recently paid to Greece attracted the attention not only of specialist observers but also of the broad international public. The unusual nature of the event is obvious. The country, standing at a very important strategic crossroads, is capable of substantially influencing by its stance the fluctuations of the regional political situation. The Balkan epic makes this feature of Russia's long-standing partner all the more prominent.

When people broach the subject of Russian-Greek relations, they traditionally turn to the past, mostly to the beginning of the 19th century, i.e. the epoch of the liberation war by the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula against the Ottoman yoke. Russia's role in that dramatic historical turn is well known. Its foreign policy was aimed at undermining the Ottoman Empire's influence in the region and helping to restore the sovereignty of a whole series of fraternal Orthodox states. The news of the rebels' successes in the Balkans was greeted enthusiastically in Russian governmental and public circles. "The land of heroes and gods has broken the chains of servitude," Aleksandr Pushkin wrote.

In general, the intentions of the Russian throne in those years were very bold and far-reaching — as

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regards diplomacy in the Balkan salient. The ideas of fundamentally dividing up Turkey and depriving it of its excessive influence there matured back in the days of Catherine II. Her and Potemkin's "Greek project" provided not only for a revision of territorial realities but also for the full liberation of European lands from the Turkish presence. It was proposed to create a Greek Orthodox empire over an extensive territory and to place a scion of the Romanovs on the throne.

But things did not go so far as that. Although someone very close to the Russian leadership did nonetheless become the first president of free Greece. He was Ioann Kapodistria, a professional Greek diplomat who for some time had headed Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A century later things also did not go so far as the spread of East European socialism to Greece, despite the fact that there definitely were preconditions for this at the concluding stage of World War II. Although it is not customary to use the subjunctive mood on historical topics, let us nonetheless note that, given a stronger Russian factor, the Balkan picture today might have been somewhat different.

At least two things prompt me to speak about the role and place of Athens in the current maelstrom of events. First, the geographical and political involvement of Greece in the development of the situation on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. That is, where Moscow has substantially lost its former positions because of well-known recent circumstances. It could have compensated for this loss to some extent by turning to the traditions of Russian-Greek ties. Second, the considerable importance of the "Greek factor" in ensuring a balance of interests, including Russian interests, of course, in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Athens has an indisputable interest in the speediest peace settlement in the Balkans — a settlement which would result in a stronger compromise between Belgrade and Zagreb, while the good relations between Serbia and Macedonia would not develop into a state alliance. There is nothing "devious" about such a desire. In the place of Tito's power the Greeks would like least of all to see a new hegemon who potentially could complicate the Macedonian question and provoke separatist ferment in the province of the same name in the northern part of Greece.

In short, Greece would like in the long term to see itself in a good-neighborly association of Balkan countries, encouraging in every possible way a strong increase in Greek Orthodox traditions and deriving the maximum advantage from all-around business cooperation. Another factor that is not neglected is reliance on the loyalty of Russia, which for its part is not averse to having in Greece, as was the case in the past, a point of support, albeit not a fundamental one.

Greece's political weight in the Eastern Mediterranean can hardly be disputed. Getting over the shame of the "black colonels'" junta and having secured for itself the image of a nation with stable democratic institutions, the successor to Ancient Greece is seeking to earn prestige as a regional peacekeeper. Mindful of the opinion that the world public has formed of the Cyprus problem, Athens is trying to realize its doctrine of a single defense area between Greece and Cyprus. We should probably also view in this light two exercises that were held in September: "Nikiforos" on Cyprus and "Toxotis" at sea between Crete and Cyprus. As well as the noticeable activation of relations between the Greek Ministry of Defense and the military departments of Egypt, Israel, and Syria.

Of course, Ankara does not like such a course of events. It perceives the agreements signed in Near Eastern countries as provocative gestures against itself and advises that "the lessons of the past not be forgotten." "Greece should fear Turkey becoming its enemy," T. Ciller says. What the prime minister has in mind here is not only cooperation with the said countries but also the Greeks' persistent attempts to ensure stronger military positions for themselves in the Aegean. For example, by persuading NATO to create a multinational rapid-reaction division at Thessaloniki. Or by extending the zone of territorial waters from 6 to 12 miles.

Turkish governmental circles reacted still more painfully to the contacts between official Greek representatives and the Kurdish Workers Party reported in the press. It is maintained that in the course of them the Greeks assured the Kurds that Athens would soon recognize the "Kurdish parliament in exile" and also discussed the possibility of Kurdish opposition to the construction of an oil pipeline from Baku, when this begins. Raising a ballyhoo over these revelations, Ankara naturally did not miss the opportunity to divert from itself some of the acute criticism for human rights violations and to draw the attention of European structures to the behavior of Greece, which "flirts with terrorists."

Russia cannot take a one-sided stand on this situation. Normal relations with both Greece and Turkey are equally important to it. These are banal truths, and if we ignore them we cannot guard against scandals and embarrassment. But the principle of a balanced policy toward our partners obviously does not imply manifest concessions or connivance to our own detriment. In this sense the example of the agreement reached to build an oil pipeline from Burgas to Alexandroupolis, through

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which Russian oil will flow to Europe, is undoubtedly worthy.

Incidentally, specialists believe that it will be very difficult to implement this project. A Russian-Greek-Bulgarian company is to be set up to take on the construction and operation of the oil pipeline. It will be necessary to fund the work and to settle in advance all aspects of cooperation between the Russian oil enterprises, the transit providers, and the recipients. In general, Russia, Greece, and Bulgaria are all faced with great work, which, given its excellent fulfillment, however, will bring them tremendous profits and political advantages.

Assessing the prospects for the development of Russian-Greek relations, it is possible to state in full confidence that it is, of course, worth ensuring active and balanced diplomacy in this area. To revive the former ties and take a new approach to bilateral cooperation — in the economy, in the cultural sphere, and along military-technical lines — all this is highly opportune for Russian foreign policy.

In this sense the trip to Greece which the Russian defense minister has just concluded undoubtedly appears productive. The agreement on military-technical cooperation (the first document of its kind in the history of relations between the two countries) provides for our Greek partners to be given assistance in training specialists to service the Soviet-made hardware transferred to the Greek Army from the former GDR after the reunification of Germany. The practice of exchanging visits by warships will be further developed. Russian officers will have the opportunity to study in Greece, and Greek officers in Russia.

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Political Issues

Skokov Criticizes Yeltsin Failure To Cope With Duties

LD0311223595 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Luskanov from the "Segodnya" newscast, with recorded remarks by President Boris Yeltsin on 19 October, and by Yuriy Skokov, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, on 3 November]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Luskanov] The Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] seemed to be the first to begin its electoral campaign and this campaign has the most twists and turns. Formally the KRO is discussing preparing for the State Duma elections, but in reality it is publicly presenting its candidate today for the 1996 presidential elections. The most cautious politician in Russia, Yuriy Skokov, who is head of the KRO, almost became prime minister in 1992. The president supported Chernomyrdin's candidacy at the time, but Skokov remained loyal to him even after this episode. This is how Boris Yeltsin described the KRO leader two weeks ago:

[Yeltsin, speaking at Moscow news conference on 19 October] I have great respect for Yuriy Skokov. He is clever, has a good knowledge of production, industry, and also politics now. He has never, since the time we separated, separated politically, made a single statement against the president.

[Luskanov] Today Skokov found his reply to the president:

[Skokov, addressing a news conference] Unfortunately, the president has not coped with his duties, his obligations as president. I also see no reason to suppose that some kind of secret weapon exists which will help to rectify [words indistinct].

[Luskanov] Criticizing Yeltsin, Yuriy Skokov quoted from the report he made at the first congress of Russian communities in which he came to the conclusion that the president is not coping with his duties. The situation is all the more poignant as Yuriy Skokov made public his long-held conclusions only now when the president is in hospital. But this did not stop Yuriy Skokov saying at today's news conference that there are forces in the country who are trying to use the president's illness to destabilize the situation in the country.

[Skokov] I don't know what my colleagues would like to add but I myself think that there is no destabilization, and this build-up of passions is a convenient reason to [words indistinct] and stir up society and increase tension in this society.

[Luskanov] And added straight after this:

[Skokov] Of course this has shown the imperfection of the constitution. The president fell ill, left active service, and society does not really understand what will happen, how work will be done, in what way society and the state can be insured against unnecessary upheavals. The constitution really does not envisage this. [Video shows Skokov sitting between General Lebed and Sergey Glazyev; the video is captioned "pictures from the Russian Continent studio"]

Rallies in Moscow Celebrate October Revolution

LD0711095895 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to law enforcement bodies, around 10,000, and according to the organizers of the events, up to 50,000 people waving red banners took part in demonstrations dedicated to the 78th anniversary of the October Revolution. Carrying portraits of Lenin and Stalin and also traditional Soviet symbols, the participants in the procession marched through the city's central streets. At this moment, a rally is being held at the monument to Karl Marx. Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communists, said that a new revolution was not part of the Communist Party's plans for seizing power. [video shows rally]

Counter-Terrorism Adviser Discusses Rabin's Murder

LD0611191895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1635 GMT on 6 November broadcasts a 25-minute program entitled Hero of the Day. In the studio, program presenter Leonid Parfenov interviews Oleg Nechiparenko, an adviser to the chairman of the international counter-terrorism training association [mezhdunarodnaya kontrterroristicheskaya treningovaya assotsiyatsiya], on international terrorism, which is pegged to the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Nechiparenko is 63, a graduate of the translation faculty of Moscow Pedagogical Institute, specializing in English and Spanish. He headed a special intelligence department in the Andropov KGB Institute and worked in foreign counterintelligence for almost 25 years. He was a KGB resident in Mexico and combined work as a counterintelligence resident. In March 1971, he was declared persona non grata, along with other members of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico, and left the country. He has authored a number of works on the CIA and other intelligence services.

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Parfenov asks Nechiparenko if he believes Rabin's murder could have been averted, to which he replies:

"Naturally, it could have been averted if his bodyguard service had operated effectively, if Yitzhaq Rabin had been wearing a bullet-proof vest, if there had been some preliminary information about the murderer's intentions. All of that together could have helped avert that tragedy."

Parfenov asks if Rabin's murder is an indication that things are amiss with the Israeli special services.

Nechiparenko replies: "The Mossad numbers among the leading services and is a rather well-qualified special service. There are a number of reasons for that. Being small in number, that service has great auxiliary possibilities in other countries, thanks to the Jewish population colonies in them. However, where a lone terrorist acts, that is extremely difficult. It may even be that Mossad had some sources and information channels in the Retribution organization, but a murderer who has decided to carry out that action might not tell anyone and might commit that act on his own — as he said — and in this event the special services are practically helpless."

Other topics covered in the studio interview included actions by foreign terrorist organizations in general terms; a general assessment of the assassinations of President John Kennedy and President al-Sadat of Egypt; and the personal qualities required of a bodyguard.

Kovalev, Yavlinskiy Interviewed on Political Issues

AU0611123395 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2105 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Interview with Russian Duma Deputy Sergey Kovalev and presidential candidate Grigoriy Yavlinskiy by Joachim Holtz and Dirk Sager; Kovalev and Holtz in Mainz, Yavlinskiy and Sager in Moscow; Kovalev and Yavlinskiy's statements in Russian with simultaneous German translation — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Holtz] Sergey Adamovich, as observers, we are judging Russia from the outside. You are considered to be Russia's conscience. Your opinion has weight. What is Russia suffering from?

[Kovalev] I believe Russia's biggest problem is this big step backward, not into communism — no, back to the Asian idea, in the sense that the state is outside and above society, the state as society's supreme goal. In this concept man is only a very small cog in the state mechanism. This is the most dangerous trend in Russia nowadays, and the elections on 17 December threaten to escalate it. [passage omitted]

[Sager] Mr. Yavlinskiy, yesterday the court made its decision [to let Yavlinskiy's Yabloko party run in the elections]. Is the matter, the conflict now over?

[Yavlinskiy] No. I am sorry to say it, but the end is not yet in sight. Today Nikolay (Ryabov), the chairman of the Central Election Committee, stated that the court had exceeded its authority and that he does not agree with the decision of the court and the public prosecutor's office. This means that our registration is still unclear.

[Sager] Mr. Yavlinskiy, last week, when the situation seemed to be particularly difficult, you said that Russia is in danger of becoming a monopolistic, criminal state. Given yesterday's court decision, do you still maintain this prediction?

[Yavlinskiy] Yes. The court's decision is proof of the fact that a controversy is under way in Russia between those forces that want to leave everything as it is in Russia — and this is indeed a path toward a criminal state — and democratic forces, which do exist. These forces are distributed among different state structures. As I said, there are state structures that certainly act democratically, which is what the Supreme Court did. However, there are also structures with clear touches of totalitarianism — these are the presidential structures. [passage omitted]

[Holtz] The president stumbles drunkenly through the world, Sergey Adamovich, but he is also the head of a formidable nuclear power. Is Yeltsin a danger to the world?

[Kovalev] I am afraid that the danger is something different and not the stumbling president, even though I agree that this is not very acceptable. I am afraid that the instability of Russian policy and other elements of Russian policy are far more dangerous. [passage omitted]

[Sager] Mr. Yavlinskiy, we journalists are sometimes a bit helpless. Do you know better than we do who is ruling in the Kremlin?

[Yavlinskiy] At the moment there is no direct answer to your question. In any case, we must not think that Russia is a monarchist country. There is not a single president as the decisionmaker in Russia. Decisionmaking is based on a far more complicated mechanism. And when you think how many different monopolist groups influence political issues in Russia, you will see quite easily what is going on in Russia.

[Sager] Are you afraid that this tension might lead to a putsch?

[Yavlinskiy] I think that the tensions in Russia are primarily due to the fact that shadow power is very strong.

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This shadow power comes from the fact that virtually unlimited power is concentrated in the hands of our president by virtue of the Constitution. However, he cannot keep all this power in his hands, and the power is leaking through his fingers, and there are the shadow figures around the president, who then pick up this power. These shadow figures, the nomenklatura, the former apparachiks, the former employees of the security systems and the KGB, make decisions nowadays. The Constitution has granted the Russian president such unlimited power that, no matter how much he recovers, he will be unable to deal with it. He is virtually like a tsar. Therefore, there are people who no one knows and who take over these functions from the president and try to use them for their own interests.

[Holtz] Sergey Adamovich, more than 50 percent of our people think that Yeltsin should be supported. They think it is good for Yeltsin, good for Russia, and good for Germany. In Russia the majority rejects supporting Yeltsin. What do you think about this? How can the people benefit from this?

[Kovalev] Good for Russia, good for Germany, I fully agree with this. Good for Russia, good for Germany, good for Western Europe — if you like, for the entire world.

[Holtz] But how can one provide help, bypassing the government and the president? How could such help be organized?

[Kovalev] I think for this we need joint programs that are thought out very well. I believe support for and also pressure on Russia are necessary because both support and pressure must be addressed to the proper place. You must not give money to the government, you must participate in the programs. You must not exert pressure on Russia as a whole, you must exert pressure on certain dangerous aspects of Russian policy.

[Holtz] My next question goes to Moscow, to Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy. German help for Moscow is something that is very much supported here. You, as an economic expert, might be able to draw up the necessary programs. But what happens if the communists win the next elections?

[Yavlinskiy] As an economist, I am certainly not satisfied with the existing system of help. If you asked any Russian citizen whether he sees this help, whether he understands this help, most people would say that they do not know anything about Western help, because this help simply gets stuck somewhere on the way, somewhere in the upper echelons. [passage omitted] I think that help for Russia should be far more concentrated on specific private initiatives in the Russian regions and provinces and not on the adventures [e.g., the Chechen war] that occur in our country from time to time.

[Sager] Mr. Yavlinskiy, I have another concern and I hope you can contradict me. Is it not true that the policy of the past four years has discredited not only the reform policy here in the country but also the West and the Western position, because it has supported this kind of policy? This means, the past four years have led to an alienation between Russia and the West.

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, it seems that this alienation between Russia and the West is due to the fact that in Russia many people have the impression that the Western politicians understand very little of what is happening in Russia, and this can be illustrated with the delayed reactions to the war in Chechnya and also with the imprecise reactions to the events in October 1993, when these things happened in Parliament in Moscow, and the conflict between Yeltsin and Parliament. This is also due to the other violations of democracy, that were not paid due attention in Western policy. We can certainly say that the Russian citizens have not felt that the West has understood Russia's problems over the past few years. All in all, the West's attitude toward Russia focuses on establishing relations with Yeltsin, Kozyrev, or the man who is prime minister. Over these years the simple Russian people have not had any direct contact with the West. It seemed to them that these relations between the West and Russia took place only at the highest echelons. And the disappointment about Yeltsin consequently led to disappointment about the West and its policy. [passage omitted]

[Sager] Mr. Yavlinskiy, if people live their lives as they do now in Russia — that is, basically without hope — is there a danger that they will turn toward a strong man, someone like [General Aleksander] Lebed, even if he has no economic program and is simply a strong personality, a general?

[Yavlinskiy] Well, this danger certainly exists. However, after having traveled through Russia so often, I again and again get the strong feeling that people nowadays are not so much looking for a strong hand but for a strong mind, because the people know that to find a way out of a really serious crisis and to continue to work on the reforms — among others, the market economy reforms — is possible only with a strong mind and that we can do less with a strong hand. [passage omitted]

[Holtz] The question of NATO's expansion to the east seems to be a question that only the elites or the government in Moscow are dealing with. What do you say? Does this affect you? Is this an important issue for you? Or how should one deal with it?

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[Kovalev] I think this is not a Russian problem. I believe that those countries that want to join NATO and NATO itself have to decide this question. Of course, Russia can ask about guarantees for its own security. This is quite normal, and these things are certainly mutually compatible. Interfering in the question of what NATO should look like in the future would not be particularly right. There is another point in this connection. I believe Russia should be integrated in the European structures, such as the Council of Europe. Of course, this is a very heavy burden for the Council of Europe, but it should accept this burden, because an isolated Russia is far more dangerous for itself and for the rest of the world.

[Sager] Mr. Kovalev, a question from Moscow. The Russian Army was deprived of its Soviet pride when the Soviet empire collapsed. The army is in misery now. Can one trust an army under these circumstances? Does it still obey its political superiors, at all?

[Kovalev] Unfortunately, this is a very difficult and very dangerous problem. Of course, this is a difficult problem for Russia, and not only for Russia. The Russian Army poses a very real danger. This is to be blamed on the politicians — on those politicians that decided to delay the army reform, those politicians who left the Russian Army in the lurch and led it into a fratricidal war, those politicians who have led the country into a situation where the army is impoverished and virtually ridiculed. However, fortunately, I think the problem is not so tragic, even though it is very dangerous. I believe that it is not yet too late to deal with the army. This is a very important task for the entire country. I believe that the army itself is not yet ready today. It cannot yet act independently or under pressure. The generals do not agree among themselves.

[Holtz] A question to Grigoriy Alekseyevich. A hundred generals are running for election now, and Defense Minister Grachev has great influence on the president. What do we have to expect after the elections? Confrontation, rearmament, a new Cold War?

[Kovalev] It will essentially depend on the results of the elections. If the communists and the nationalists were to gain a big victory in these elections, the militarization of Russia will be unavoidable. Then the generals will want to rely again on establishing military alliances, and the military-industrial complex, which has been preserved in many respects, will be a danger again, and our budget will basically be tailored to military needs. Therefore, it is extremely important that these forces do not win the next elections. It is even more important that they do not win the presidential elections.

Rybkin Urges Tougher State Control of Economic Reforms

LD0611182295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 6 (INTERFAX) — It is necessary to toughen state control of economic reforms, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin said Monday summing up the results of his two-day trip to the Voronezh region (central Russia), the State Duma press service reported Monday.

The top-priority problem requiring the immediate solution is price-setting in the country's fuel and energy complex, according to the press service.

Rybkin described as unacceptable a situation when energy-producing regions independently set prices "to dictate them to their neighbors." "This may lead only to the collapse of the country's united energy system, which the state cannot let happen," he stated.

According to Rybkin, the problems of education, delayed pensions, poor support of domestic producers and agriculture are all evidence of the fact that the Finance Ministry and the government as a whole work not too well.

Conference Discusses Regions' Relations With Center

MM0711101995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by special correspondent Yelena Ishkova and Vladimir Semenov under the "Regions" rubric: "What 'Central Russia' Wants of the Center"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yaroslavl — The territorial disintegration of the economy, which has come about in the course of the reforms, has not yet been overcome. How are we to rid ourselves of it and remove the administrative restrictions on the movement of commodities? This problem was discussed by a meeting of the founders of the "Central Russia" interregional association held in Yaroslavl.

The governors of 16 regions or their deputies gathered here. After describing the socioeconomic situation as ambiguous and complex, the association's founders put a number of proposals to the government. They believe that it is necessary to define a clear procedure for the participation of organs of power at various levels in the management of federal property and the range of their powers. They insist on the adoption of a decision on the timing and procedure for transferring sociocultural and domestic projects to municipal ownership. It is also necessary to adopt laws ensuring protection for

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the population's deposits, to draw up a mechanism for granting Central Bank stabilization credits to local banks on preferential terms, to revise the system of mutual financial obligations by the government and by enterprises fulfilling the state order, and also to entrust the treasuries of the Ministry of Finance with continuing work on ruling out financial counterflows.

Oleg Soskovets, first vice premier of the government, who participated in the work of the meeting, said that many of the problems touched upon can be resolved by the regions themselves. Confirmation of this was provided in the speech by Yuriy Vlasov, head of Vladimir Oblast Administration, where they have found a way to attract the population's money to the needs of Vladimir Tractor Plant. A decision has been adopted to float a special oblast loan, as a result of which 50 billion rubles will be attracted as investments for the tractor builders. In his speech Yuriy Roslyak, first deputy premier of Moscow, spoke of the source of money for accelerated housing construction. Moscow is planning to increase the commissioning of housing to 4 million square meters next year against 3 million this year. All this will be funded by a housing loan and the sale of housing at commercial prices.

The association's members believe that their association will help them to cooperate better with one another. For example, Ryazan Oblast Governor Gennadiy Merkulov complained in his speech: At the fair Moscow concluded contracts for a scanty proportion of the agricultural produce that Ryazan Oblast was ready to deliver to Muscovites' tables. The oblast is having to send its produce to distant regions. Valentina Demina from Bryansk raised the same problems in her speech — butter and potatoes lying unsold in the oblast.

Taking advantage of the presence of high-ranking Moscow guests, the governors put this question point-blank: When will the center's debts to the regions be cleared?

First Deputy Finance Minister Petrov replied that the government is now seeking new sources to clear these debts, and soon the money will be sent to the regions. Oleg Soskovets replied to the remaining questions. He emphasized that, in the government's opinion, when decisions are adopted concerning the management of federal property located on the territory of a region, the interests of that region above all must be taken into account.

Media Issues

Daily Criticized for Anti-Yeltsin 'Intrigue'

MM0611202995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 2

[Unattributed feature under the "ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI" commentary: "The Newspaper Which Did Not Surprise Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How can you distinguish a real fact from deliberate intrigue? This is the question being asked in letters from ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI readers, who are drowning in a sea of various assessments, getting lost in a labyrinth of commentaries, and are despairing of detecting even a hint of the truth in the bouquet of beautiful but artificial interpretations and far-fetched concepts conjured up out of nothing. Our answer to the readers will come in the form of a new ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI rubric, "Fact and Intrigue." It appears for the first time today. And so...

Fact

From an interview in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI with Viktor Ilyushin, the Russian Federation president's first aide (ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI No. 208, 1 November 1995):

[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI] Does the head of state's location have any impact on the fulfillment of his presidential duties?

[Ilyushin] I would say that of late we have arranged a working system and a mechanism of collaboration which makes it not particularly important, it seems to me, what location the president finds himself in. For us aides there is no fundamental difference whether he works in the Kremlin or in his out-of-town residence. Apart, perhaps, from the ability to go into his office and talk to Boris Nikolayevich personally. When it is a question of urgent matters, we have always been able to get in contact with him — irrespective of where the president is. Of course the hospital is a different situation. That is wrapped up with the physical condition of Boris Nikolayevich and, of course, there will naturally be a certain hiatus in the president's work.

Intrigue

From materials under the rubric "People Who Have Surprised Us" (KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA No. 202)

"A week after Boris Nikolayevich's hospitalization, his aide told ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI: 'Of late...a system for our work has taken shape such that...it is not particularly important what location the president finds himself in.'

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Thus the President's right- (left-?) hand man has, with surprising tact, indicated the location in which we find ourselves."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has evidently recalled an old Komsomol [Communist Youth League] game — reading between the lines. Admittedly, it would have been interesting to see the Komsomol members in their time playing games with the general secretary. But they think that everything is permissible with the president. Out of false ideas about freedom of speech, and a desire to please the ordinary citizen and humiliate the head of state, his aide, and ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, was born a theory which its authors evidently thought should make people laugh. But this was not written to generate laughter or for effect.

However, we will not try to read between the lines ourselves. It is only clear that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, taking advantage of the fact that many Russians have no political experience which would allow them to judge the enormous volume of the constitutional duties of the head of state, is trying, little by little, to instill in people the idea of a loss of control over the country. That since the president is not in the Kremlin, then something is wrong...

Meanwhile, it is evident even from materials in the same KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that during his recent vacation in Sochi, Boris Yeltsin conducted masses of important meetings with heads of other states and regional leaders, not to mention the constant contacts with the government chairman, his deputies, ministers, and aides. He signed edicts and worked on strategically important documents, whose significance has not decreased in the least as a result of their being prepared in the Sochi residence rather than the Kremlin.

For instance, in the United States, it is of no importance whatsoever to public opinion whether Bill Clinton is in the White House or not. For the Americans the White House is where their President is, whether it be in a villa in the mountains, or a ranch. And that is why the question asked by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in fact helped clarify for the first time some details of a very subtle nature, by showing how the president retains control of all the strands of power [upravleniye], and how this mechanism operates via his contacts with the government, his aides, his Staff, and regional leaders.

That is the fact and all the other fanciful notions are intrigue.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Vorobyev Interviewed on Army's Financial Plight

MM0611153195 Moscow TRUD in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 4

[Interview with Colonel General Vasiliy Vorobyev, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Military Budget and Finance Directorate, by Colonel Samail Temirbiyev; place and date not given: "Battalions Want Something to Eat. The 'Invincible and Legendary' Is on Starvation Rations" — first two paragraphs are TRUD introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] When an organism is sick, an individual cell cannot feel good. When the country has a fever, the Army also begins to shiver. Quite so. But does this mean that you can turn a blind eye to the illness of the guarantor of military security and save on medicines? How far can the savings go? What if the cell itself is destroyed and irrevocable changes start to occur in the actual organism?

Over to Colonel General Vasiliy Vorobyev, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Military Budget and Finance Directorate:

[Vorobyev] I do not like to be alarmist, but the Armed Forces are now on the brink of collapse. The desire to economize on the Army is having disastrous consequences.

The financing of the Armed Forces has been deteriorating ever since 1992. The minimum requirements are the same; few are approved by the law, and fewer still are realized in practice. In 1993 the picture was as follows: Some 7.5 trillion rubles [R] were approved and the Defense Ministry received R1 trillion less than that. Same story the next year: Some 12 trillion were approved, but the ministry actually failed to receive nearly one-third of this sum. This year we got a little over one-half of the amount envisaged by the law.

What do we have as a result of this practice? Operational, combat, and mobilization training have been reduced to a minimum. Pilots' flying hours are woefully inadequate. This is leading to professional deterioration. Troops' combat proficiency is declining. And look what is happening to military camps and social, consumer, and cultural facilities. A number of garrisons in the Far North are in danger of being destroyed. What is more, we have failed to deliver all the essentials to them and winter has already set in there. How can anyone talk about privileges for servicemen when we cannot provide the Army and Navy with statutory supplies on time.

As of November we will be unable to give soldiers their pay. The money has run out. In September no

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one in the Army got his money on time. Entire garrisons are waiting for three and even four months' pay. We cannot even pay for ceremonial services, for gravestones for servicemen. The Moscow and oblast military commissariats alone have received requests from 1,600 citizens, who have been waiting six months for compensation for the cost of these services.

[Temirbiyev] What about payment for food?

[Vorobyev] This year R6 trillion were required for food. Some R1.7 trillion was allocated. As if they were saying: breakfast, lunch, or supper, one of those. This money has now dried up. We are using up emergency rations: Some 53 percent of them, worth R414 billion. Soldiers' rations now include 20 grams of meat instead of 200. Monetary compensation instead of food rations has not been paid for months.

[Temirbiyev] The fuel situation in the Army, Navy and Air Force is simply catastrophic. What is the reason for this?

[Vorobyev] It's the same old story: No money. But there is a subtle difference. When the budget for this year was approved fuel expenditure was reduced by more than one-half. The expenditure limit and the plan to supply troops with fuel had to be adjusted in March.

[Temirbiyev] To the detriment of combat training?

[Vorobyev] Yes, unfortunately. Pilots are now doing only one-tenth of the statutory flying hours. You do not have the full complement of air defense fighters on alert duty. Aviation school students cannot go into the forces, because they cannot fly. Some 80 percent of airfields lack fuel stocks for current needs. The Army is doing practically no combat training and exercises are performed entirely on maps.

[Temirbiyev] New types of Russian equipment are being exhibited at international shows and many of them are acknowledged by specialists to be the best in the world. Is our Army getting them?

[Vorobyev] Since there is no money, series production of complex types of armaments and equipment has practically ceased to exist in Russia. The Defense Ministry is placing orders for the odd item. The same applies to military research. Hundreds of promising studies are being curtailed or stopped altogether. In particular this applies to the development and organization of the production of precision weapons.

[Temirbiyev] Housing construction is perhaps the most delicate subject....

[Vorobyev] Some 125,000 servicemen's families are without accommodations. The amount of money allotted is enough to commission one-third of the planned apartments. The state program on this has not been met.

[Temirbyev] It is no secret that the Armed Forces are in debt. It has gotten to the point where the state's main power institution is going cap in hand to commercial banks.

[Vorobyev] Unfortunately that is true. The draft federal budget for 1996 sets defense expenditure at R78.9 trillion. Including R77.1 trillion for the organizational development and upkeep of the Armed Forces and servicemen's pensions. Minimum requirements are R134 trillion. The 1995 budget is in the red. And next year's budget is less than this year's.

[Temirbiyev] What do you intend to do?

[Vorobyev] We have asked for an extra R12.8 trillion for this year. The request was sent to the government and the Finance Ministry. But the government is planning R6 trillion. Some R7.7 trillion are needed for the indexation of pay and allowances alone, but only R2.2 trillion are planned. There is no provision at all for the upkeep of the grouping of forces in Chechnya. And that will cost R2.8 trillion....

[Temirbiyev] When were the additional appropriations for national defense through the end of 1995 planned, and were the Russian Federation Government's decisions made in September taken into account?

[Vorobyev] These decisions actually talk about appropriations for financing the Armed Forces and about resolving the nonpayments problem. The decisions were made on 6, 13, and 20 September 1995. They were all ignored.

If the Army has no money, what is a serviceman's family going to do? I visited one family recently. He is a major, a battalion commander, his wife does not work, and they have two children. Asked by her child, five-year-old Masha, whether her beloved cat Murzik would soon be better, the mother said: "Yes, soon." But she told me: "We got rid of our Murzik. There wasn't enough money for food and we still had the cat."

Some people may think I am exaggerating. Not so. If you have any doubts, go to the garrison and ask the first child you meet how long it is since he last tasted a "Snickers" bar.

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Government Adopts Nuclear Waste Treatment Program

MM0611151295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Monitoring the Government's Decisions" rubric: "Federal Programs: We Still Have Plenty of Potential Chernobyls Here"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government has issued a decree approving the federal targeted program on "The Treatment of Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Materials, Their Recycling, and Their Disposal in 1996-2005." The urgency of the problem stems from the fact that at present not a single nuclear electric power station in Russia has the full range of equipment for the treatment of radioactive waste. Weapons-grade nuclear waste products are stored in special receptacles or storage facilities, most of which have outlived their planned operating life. The technical condition of most of the installations where waste products from recycled nuclear-powered ships and other vessels are deposited is near to dangerous. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of the scientific research organizations which used to do work connected with the processing of radioactive waste are located in new residential areas in large cities. The federal program, adopted to implement the Russian Federation Government's decree "On the Russian Federation Government's Environmental Protection Action Plan for 1994-1995" of 18 May 1994, is aimed at the comprehensive solution of problems of the treatment of radioactive waste.

Western Experts Monitor Nuclear Waste on 'Lepse'

BR0711121795 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 6 Nov 95 p 4

[Article by Kjetil Bragli Alstadheim: "Western Experts Monitor 'Lepse'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Murmansk — Western experts are busy monitoring the Russian ship, *Lepse*, which is fully loaded with nuclear waste.

A few weeks ago three experts from the French concern SGN [General Company for Nuclear Technology] and the British company AEA Technology boarded the vessel. It was the first time that foreign experts had been down in the ship's storage areas.

The level of radiation is high around the vessel's two storage sections. During their 20-minute visit the Western and Russian experts who took part in the inspection were exposed to a dose of radiation equivalent to the maximum recommended monthly exposure rate.

In two weeks the two companies will return to the ship to investigate further. Remote-controlled cameras will be used to monitor the situation in the storage sections. Robots will probably have to be used when the waste is removed.

Under the EU Aegis

The two companies won the contract following a call for tenders put out by the European Union. Their assignment is to monitor how the nuclear waste can be removed from the ship and transferred to a safe land-based storage facility. A plan with recommendations will be presented in spring next year.

The management of the Murmansk Shipping Company hopes that the work to remove the fuel can start as early as next year.

"We will have to see what the best solution to the problem might be — in other words, what we can afford and the extent to which we can use Russian companies," the company's press spokesman Vladimir M. Blinov, said. He was present when the Western experts inspected the ship's storage areas.

"We hope to be able to start removing the fuel in the course of 1996 or early 1997," Vyacheslav Ruksh, the director of the Murmansk Shipping Company's "Atomflot" base, said. The base is located 2 kilometers north of Murmansk, which is where the *Lepse* is also moored. The only way onto the ship is to pass through the decommissioned Lenin, Russia's first nuclear icebreaker, dating from 1959. Another ship is moored on the other side of the *Lepse* to act as a "shock absorber" in case a ship runs off course and collides with the vessel loaded with nuclear waste.

On the deck of the *Lepse* around the hatch to the storage areas are small notices warning of the risk of radiation.

The *Lepse* is no isolated case on the Kola peninsula. The military Northern Fleet also has similar storage ships which pose similar problems. Any solution found for the "Lepse" could therefore become a model for how the other ships can be handled.

Bellona estimates that on the Kola Peninsula there are approximately 16 storage ships or reactors containing spent fuel which is hard to remove. The environmental organization believes therefore that the best solution for *Lepse* is to construct an airtight dock that can also be used for the other ships. The EU has allocated approximately two million kroner for the work of investigating the problem. There is also a chance that the EU will also be involved in financing additonal planning. But the financing of the operation itself — and for the time being at least no one knows how much this will cost — must be met by Russia with aid from such countries as Norway, Finland, and the United States.

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Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Military, Negotiations, Politics

Commanders Pledge Allegiance to Dudayev

LD0711143995 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The war is continuing in Chechnya. Another Russian soldier was killed there today.

[Correspondent Shirokova] A woman was killed and one Russian soldier and a teenager were injured today as a result of the incident in the central market of Groznyy. At the same time political life has been active in the Chechen capital. Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Government said to correspondents today that there are only two legal powers: The Supreme Council and the government. In addition, according to Zavgayev, it has now become a coalition government because approximately half of its members are Dudayev's supporters. At the same time, head of the Dudayev parliament Yusuf Soslanbekov hurriedly stated that Dudayev's side are considering invalid all the agreements that Zavgayev intends to sign with Moscow. Meanwhile Ruslan Khasbulatov and Chechen field commander Akhmed Zakayev discussed today the ways out of the Chechen crisis in the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission. Taking the opportunity, Zakayev again accused the Russian side of wrecking the military agreements and said that he will halt his work in the observation commission.

Aslan Maskhadov, commander of the Dudayev staff met today with representatives of the federal command. The question they discussed was the fate of Lieutenant Colonel Maksimenkov and Private Morozov who had been accompanying Maskhadov and had disappeared in the Roshni-Chu area. Maskhadov assured the command that the missing are alive and he will spare no effort in returning them.

[Correspondent Knyazev] The frequent proposals by federal politicians and some military men on the need to transfer the process of talks to the level of field commanders and stop the talks with the Dudayev side — that is with Maskhadov's delegation — are very questionable if you listen to the opinions of field commanders themselves.

[Begin I. Astamirov recording, chief of the southwestern front headquarters] Nothing will come out of it. If someone cherishes some hopes, or has doubts that a split is possible between us, then there is no chance of that. The only possible way that our ways could differ is when Dudayev gives up the idea of independence. Let them not pin their hopes on our ways differing. [end recording]

[Begin D. Akhmadov recording, commander of the southwestern Forces] All these are artificial attempts, even ridiculous, for us, to hear. Attempts at splitting us are vain, we obey Dzhokhar Dudayev, commander in chief and president. If Dudayev backs down on the idea of sovereignty and independence then he will have a direct conflict with us. [end recording]

[Knyazev] The field commanders are ready to implement the accord on military issues. However, at the working meetings between the delegations the Russian side insists that Chechen formations must prove by their actions their readiness to continue the dialogue. The Chechen side, according to Aslan Maskhadov, cannot do this while force is being used against civilians.

There is no alternative to implementing the package of military issues. The same people who have started the implementation, that is the military from both sides, must continue this process and not politicians of all kinds. [video shows interview with Zavgayev and field commanders, meetings, tanks and armored vehicles moving on the streets]

Khasbulatov Meets Chechen Troops Leader

LD0611202095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Yuriy Zenin] There were persistent rumours in Groznyy today Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Chechen armed groups, had left for Moscow. However, his arrival at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] building dispelled these. There were again a great number of cars outside the group's gates. The guards were again of different nationalities.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is well known in Chechnya and Russia, and Akhmed Zakayev, who commands the southeast front of the Chechen armed groups, met here today. [Video shows Zakayev and Khasbulatov arriving and leaving meeting, speaking to correspondents]

Speaking to correspondents, Zakayev said that the meeting was private but nevertheless did concern the situation in Chechnya. Professor Khasbulatov and General Zakayev discussed the possibility of there being a positive resolution to the Chechen crisis. Zakayev stated that Russia is departing from the agreement which has already been signed on the military issue. In this regard, Akhmed Zakayev said he has been forced to suspend the

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work of the Special Observer Commission until guarantees are given with regard to the safety of the population of Chechnya. In any case, Zakayev said, a peace dialogue between Russia and Chechnya is not possible until the elections take place on 17 December.

[Begin Zakayev recording] I hope the victors will be the Communists. I think we can have a constructive dialogue with them and talks with them may bring results. [end recording]

[Zenin] Mr. Khasbulatov answered correspondents' questions in the negotiations hall of the OSCE mission.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] Let us put to one side the contentious issue of whether or note Chechnya should be part of the Russian Federation. It would be good to think that there might be some success in bringing about a cessation of the military conflict and preventing the crimes which have been committed here, and which are still being committed today. [end recording]

[Zenin] First of all, Khasbulatov considers, the lack of confidence on both the Russian and Chechen side needs to be overcome. The night shelling of roadblocks and the bombing of Chechen villages are patently not facilitating the peace dialogue. One of these shelling incidents occurred as Ruslan Khasbulatov and Olivier Pelen, the head of the cooperation group, were leaving the OSCE building. There was a skirmish at the market in the center of Groznyy, as a result of which a woman died. OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] employees fired indiscriminately. Witnesses were even able to give the number of their APC — 185. [Video shows people at market place]

Khasbulatov: Dismiss Charges Against Dudayev

LD0311154895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Former chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov has called for cancelling criminal proceedings against Dzhokhar Dudayev and allowing his full participation at the Chechen peace talks.

An obligatory condition for successful peace talks is legalization of the Chechen side, termination of criminal proceedings against Dudayev, definition of specific goals for the talks, and an upgrade in the level of Russian officials participating in the talks, says a Khasbulatov article with the theme "Chechen Republic: Proposals on a Peace Settlement."

The article takes a whole page of today's issue of the GROZNENSKY RABOCHY newspaper.

Khasbulatov believes the Dudayev delegation to the talks understands that "right after the disarmament, it will face arrest or, possibly, execution without a trial. The threats to resume combat operations, repeatedly voiced in Moscow, are considered (by the Dudayev side - IF) as a direct blackmail."

Khasbulatov is sure that acceptance of his proposals "will have a strong influence on the rebel units and their commanders, increase their interest in negotiations and their results, and prove that their war was not senseless."

According to Khasbulatov, "over 50,000 people have been killed in the war/manslaughter, and the overall damage of Chechnya and its troops has reached over $40 billion."

The federal authorities "are trying with maniacal persistence to consolidate "the Chechen government" and make the population abide by it. That government was formed by them to fight against "the Dudayev regime" and introduced by federal armor," says the article.

"It is not just a silly thing, but total disrespect to the people, an insult of feelings and traditions which stirs up the situation," it says.

In the opinion of Khasbulatov, if it appears to be impossible to hold Chechen elections right after the end of hostilities, it is necessary to form a coalition government on the basis of negotiations and with participation of persons, who were not involved in the conflict.

He stressed that the main task of today is "quick termination of the conflict with peaceful means and in a comparatively short time."

Head of the Dudayev delegation to the negotiations with the Russian government delegation Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov told INTERFAX in Groznyy Friday he is aware of Khasbulatov's stand but can comment on it only after their personal meeting, to be held in the near future.

Zavgayev: Militants Want To Go Home

LD0611201195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic and chairman of the Chechen Government, has given an interview to our special correspondent in Groznyy, Marina Chernukha.

[Begin Zavgayev recording] I visited the Terek area of the republic — where Nadterechnyy, Naurskiy, and Shelkovskiy districts meet — yesterday and the day before yesterday.

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We met militants there. They are normal people. Many of them took to arms because of various reasons, and essentially committed no crime other than the illegal possession of arms. They said they want to surrender their arms, go back to their families, and a peaceful life. There is just one thing they ask for — reliable guarantees of no subsequent official repercussions, something I affirmed would not take place.

I think that the negotiating process set in motion earlier must of course be preserved, but I think that the gamut of people representing various groups must be broadened, and that talks must go on. This is indeed what we are doing.

I think that Khasbulatov's potential and the potential of others must be used to the extent to which it might facilitate consensus being reached. Evidently, Khasbulatov has his own plan of action, I have not been initiated into the details; however, as far as Khasbulatov himself is concerned, and as far as his participation is concerned, I think it must be welcomed to the extent to which he can help us.

Dialogue must be conducted with all public and political forces, even with individuals, if it is useful.

In our conditions, the clergy and representatives of the so-called militants, that is to say everyone involved in the current conflict, including people who live not only beyond the frontiers of the republic but may be even of the country, wield strong influence. The so-called diaspora could also be brought into play where this cause is concerned — at least we hope so. [end recording]

OSCE To Persevere in Peace Efforts

MM0611163495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

["Own Information" report under the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and Telegraph Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "OSCE Still Holding Course for Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy — French representative Olivier Pelen who was given the job of temporarily heading the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] assistance group in Chechnya, expressed his readiness to continue the course for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the republic within the framework of the existing mandate.

Five foreign diplomats are currently working at the OSCE mission in Groznyy. By the time full-scale talks begin their number will increase, evidently to eight. The OSCE assistance group's temporary leader expressed his gratitude to the Russian Government for the security guarantees given to them, which are ensuring the mission's full-scale work in Groznyy.

Moscow Foreign Ministry Target of 'Malicious Hooliganism'

MM0611160695 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Hello, Have I Hit the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the buildings of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow came under fire on Friday. As was reported at the capital's Internal Affairs Main Administration, the windows of the first floor of a free-standing building of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs Administration of Affairs (No. 19 Denezhnyy pereulok) were fired on at 1510 by an unknown person from an as yet unidentified firearm. Upon examination, police officers discovered a holed pane in one of the windows. Some 25 meters from the scene of the crime several 9-millimeter cartridge-cases were taken away. The law enforcement agencies classified the incident as "malicious hooliganism."

Moscow Mayor Lauds Army's Help With Local Harvest

MM0611160195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

["Own information" report under "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and News Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "The Capital Thanks the Army for Full Storehouses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow Government — The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Editorial Office has learned that Yuriy Luzhkov, the capital's mayor, has sent a telegram to Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, in which he thanked the Ministry of Defense, the personnel of Moscow Military District units and subunits, and students of military educational institutions on behalf of the Moscow Government for their assistance in harvesting vegetables and potatoes on the oblast's farms.

In the mayor's opinion, it is to the considerable credit of the military that the capital's food storehouses have not remained half-empty and that the harvest has been gathered in and produce put in store within the optimum times and in quantities to ensure that Muscovites enjoy an uninterrupted supply until next year's harvest. He pointed to the high degree of organization, discipline, and responsibility among the servicemen who participated in the harvest, and he voiced hope for further fruitful cooperation.

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Tatar President Views Power-Sharing With Moscow

LD0611153895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN, Nov 6 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev said he believed that the treaties on power-sharing between the federal authorities and the federation's constituent members, which are currently being concluded, "prepare the ground for an inevitable process: economic decentralization."

"A subsidized republic, which depends on financial injections from the federal budget, is unlikely to be capable of assuming a wide range of powers," Shaymiyev told INTERFAX. Nevertheless, Shaymiyev said that such a "subsidized republic" might start "with a minimum amount of power-sharing."

Shaymiyev said the treaty on power sharing which Russia and Tatarstan had signed in 1994 "is of absolutely special nature." He said he believed that an analogous treaty could be signed only with Chechnya which had refused to join the federative treaty.

Shaymiyev said the position of Tatarstan on power sharing with the center, which earlier had provoked serious debates, "today is recognized by Russian leaders."

Shaymiyev said that, however, at the original stage, Tatarstan's position had provoked "irritation" within the circles surrounding the Russian president and among some regional leaders. "It was necessary to wait for this difficult period to end," Shaymiyev said. "A special position always comes under fire," he said.

Roundup of October Revolution Activities Around Regions

LD0711101295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK [no date as received] — Some 2,000 people, mostly old and middle-aged, took part today in a meeting, devoted to the 78th anniversary of the October Revolution. Speakers at the meeting denounced the economic policy, pursued by the Russian president and government, and urged to rally around "the only defender of people's interests — the Communist Party of the Russian Federaion" at the forthcoming elections to the State Duma.

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY. The anniversary of the October Revolution was observed at the Kamchatka Peninsula with singing and dancing. "We shall build Leningrad in Mars and Ulyanovsk in the Moon" — these are the verses, recited by activists of the pro-communist public movement Tovarishch (comrade) at a meeting, held in the central square of the city. Several hundred people responded with enthusiasm to anti-president and anti-government slogans. The one-hour-long meeting was followed by the signing of komsomol and revolutionary songs, the dancing of folk dances and a feast, which included strong drinks and barbecued mutton.

VLADIVOSTOK. Communists of the Primorye Region marked today the anniversary of the Revolution with a demostration, a meeting and the laying of wreaths at the monument to Lenin at the Railway Terminal Square of Vladivostok. Some 1,000 people holding red flags and streamers listened to appeals for the resignation of the government. The celebration was organised by the Primorye branches of the Working Russian movement, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Russian Communist Workers' Party and VKP/b/. Zyuganov's supporters urged demonstrators to work for the changing of a political course with the help of elections, while more radical activists called for a general political strike.

KHABAROVSK. A meeting on the occasion of the anniversary of the Revolution, held in Khabarovsk, was the biggest one over the past several years. Several thousand people responded to the appeal of communists to celebrate the anniversary and came to the Lenin Square. Speakers at the meeting denounced the authorities and urged to vote for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation at the elections to the State Duma. Demonstrators marched by the main street of the city to the Komsomolskaya Square, where they laid flowers at the monument to heroes of the Civil War.

BIROBIDZHAN. For the first time in many years, no demonstrations were held in the Jewish Autonomous Region on November 7. A meeting of supporters of the local branch of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation under the slogan "Russia, Work, People's Power, Socialism" is the only activity planned for today. A concert will be held after the meeting.

ULAN UDE. Today's traditional rally of communists of Buryatia became subject to demonopolization. While speakers from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation urged to boycott candidates from the Our Home Is Russia movement, leaflets with similar attacks against them were distributed by supporters of Working Russia and Anpilov's Russian Communist Workers' Party. The rally was held in a traditional way. Some 300 demonstrators ended it with a modest march by the central square of Ulan-Ude, from where they went to a celebration conference.

KRASNOYARSK. About 5,000 people carrying red flags and Stalin's portraits took part today in a march by the main street of Krasnoyarsk. After that a rally

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was held at the square outside the monument to Lenin. Speakers at the rally denounced the policy, pursued by the president and the government, which, in their opinion, resulted in the impoverishment of the population.

BARNAUL. A meeting of supporters of the Agrarian Party, communists and other left-wing forces, in which thousands of people took part, was held in Barnaul to observe the anniversary of the October Revolution.

Further on Roundup of Regional Observances

LD0711124395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NOVOSIBIRSK [no date as received] — A rally was organised in Novosibirsk on the occasion of the anniversary of the Revolution. The forthcoming elections were the chief subjects of speeches, made at the meeting. Some 5,000 to 6,000 people came to the Lenin Square. For the first time in the past several years leaders of the regional administration came in full strength.

The topic of the elections dominated as well a meeting of duped clients of "pyramid" financial companies, held at about the same time. They protested against "corruption in the regional administration." Ilya Konstantinov, leader of the National Salvation Front, gave a keynote to the meeting. He is running to the Duma from the city of Novosibirsk.

OMSK. About 2,000 Omsk residents took part today in a rally held at the Lenin Square. Aleksandr Kravets, leader of the regional branch of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and Vladimir Nikolayev, head of the Omsk branch of the Independent Trade Unions of Russia, said that only the unity and victory of left-wing forces at the parliamentary and later at the presidential elections can change the economic and political situation in the country. Speakers at the meeting urged demonstrators to vote for a candidate from the regional committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation at the elections of the governor of the Omsk Region, scheduled for December 17.

CHELYABINSK. Some 6,000 Chelyabinsk residents carrying red flags and accompanied by a band marched to the Revolution Square where, by tradition, they celebrated the anniversary of the October Revolution. Participants in the demonstration laid flowers at the monument to Lenin. Unlike the past several years, speakers did not use too often the categoric slogans beginning with the words "Down with ..." and stressed the need for a constitutional change of power. The organizers of the celebration — the regional allied committee of communists and the councils of the movements For The Revival Of The Urals and Working Chelyabinsk — urged the demonstrators to take an active part in the elections.

YEKATERINBURG. About 3,000 people took part here in a demonstration and a rally, devoted to the anniversary of the October Revolution. Workers of the defence industry enterprises also march in the columns, led by representatives of left-wing parties and movements. The defence industry enterprises of the Midland Urals are now living through enormous hardships. They neither receive money from the government for the fulfilment of the defence order, nor credits or subsidies for going on with conversion. The debt of the state to defence industry enterprises of the region has reached one trillion roubles.

KOSTROMA. Residents of the city laid red carnations today at the monument to Lenin, which, at the same time, is a monument to the Romanov royal family.

The unique monument is situated in the centre of the city park. Its history is most interesting. Early in this century Nicolas II visited Kostroma. The ceremony of founding a monument on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Romanov family was held near the Ipatievskiy Monastery, which is located on the lands traditionally belonging to the Romanovs. Money for the monument was raised all over Russia. Nicolas II personally laid the first brick in the foundation of the monument. It was planned to place on the pedestal all the Romanov tsars, beginning with Mikhail, who was invited to Moscow from Kostroma. The monument was never completed because of the revolution. The pedestal stood without any monument for several years, after which it was decided to put a monument to Lenin on it, meeting the requests of the revolutionary-minded population.

Some people in Kostroma urged to destroy this combination of two monuments, but common sense got an upper hand. It was decided that history can be revised, can be interpreted in a new way, but cannot be changed.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin's Move To Increase Pensions Examined

MM0611184295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Yelena Vasilkova: "Pensions Have Been Indexed. It Is Essential To Urgently Replenish Pension Fund"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his hospital bed Boris Yeltsin did not forget the pensioners and signed the Law On Increasing the Minimum Pension. Will regional administrators remember the pensioners?

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Pensioners awaited 1 November with alarm and hope: Would there be a routine indexation of pensions? Would there be enough money for this?

In the run-up to it, they called the editorial office almost on an daily basis to ask these questions. Because they had gone through a hard summer in 1995. And they did not want a repetition of it.

Six months ago such questions did not arise among elderly people. Because pensions were punctually indexed every three months, and were simply increased by a given amount in line with the rise in the cost of living. In addition there were paid out on time.

But something incredible began to happen in July: For the first time in recent years there were delays with pension payments. Then this happened again in August, September, and October.... So, the pensioners do, actually, have cause for concern. What is more, Boris Nikolayevich suddenly fell ill, and without the president's signature the law adopted by the deputies is not a law.

But November is upon us. And it has become known that Boris Yeltsin, who is under treatment in hospital, did not forget about the pensioners and signed on the first of the month the laws on increasing the minimum pension and the procedure for its indexation and on increasing the minimum wage.

In accordance with the laws, the minimum old-age pension and the minimum wage are fixed at the following sums:

from 1 November 1995 — 57,750 rubles [R] per month;
from 1 December 1995 — R60,500 per month;
from 1 January 1995 — R63,250 per month.

In accordance with the law on increasing the minimum pension, all pensions are being increased by a factor of 1.05 from 1 November, by a factor of 1.1 from 1 December, and by a factor of 1.15 from 1 January 1996, based on the size of the pensions paid out in October 1995.

Both federal laws come into effect on 1 November.

This is good news. We have, however, been forced to recognize that the law does not give any guaranties that the money will be paid to the pensioners on time. After all, it is no secret that the previous indexations — both routine and nonroutine ones — literally exhausted the Pension Fund. Much has been said and written about this. And the most urgent measures have been taken at the highest level in order to overcome the present crisis.

In mid-September a working conference was convened at the Russian Federation Government in connection with this, which was attended by leaders of executive branch bodies responsible for social work and leaders of the Russian Pension Fund's regional departments. Specialists analyzed the state of pension provision, determined the causes of the current situation, and put forward their recommendations to resolve it.

In the opinion of those present, the causes, which are in general simple and have been known for a long time: Enterprises' debts in respect of the payment of insurance contributions to the Pension Fund and the adoption of laws on the nonroutine indexation of pensions without regard for the existing sources of finance.

There were many recommendations. And apart from a whole list of general formulations — to lend assistance, conduct constant explanatory work, step up monitoring, work through questions, adopt additional measures, and so on — there are concrete proposals, including a proposal: "To Request the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office to step up monitoring of payments of insurance contributions to the Pension Fund by contributors."

But what can be done if several enterprise managers sometimes deliberately fail to pay contributions, dissemble, and worm their way out of paying taxes under various pretexts? It is simply necessary to punish such people, and to go as far as to declare their enterprises bankrupt.

Unfortunately, several of them here have up until now only respected a firm hand. For example, when Tula Oblast administration put in a request to the prosecutor's office and the tax organs to check out a persistent defaulter — a local machine-building enterprise — the debts were paid off in three days!

I would like to believe that such a method would help the Pension Fund to collect the sum it requires. But this is not possible. Very likely some people really do get very frightened but others are not very moved. Others still simply have no resources to pay even if a gun were held to their heads. There are such sectors in which people do not receive their wages for months. Meaning that other solutions must be found.

On more than one occasion already specialists from the Russian Federation Ministry of Social Protection of the Population have put forward their method for resolving the problem — that is to use the so-called floating differential principle. According to this principle two methods of increasing pensions — linear indexation, whereby payments are multiplied by a given factor, and hard compensation, whereby a single identical sum is added to all of them — are used consecutively or simultaneously. Otherwise, there is either a socially

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unjustified differentiation of pension sums that leads to the impoverishment of pensioners who are already in need, or a erosion of differentials in pension provision occurs.

Last year provided eloquent testimony of the correctness of this viewpoint. During the first quarter of 1994 after the pension had been increased by an across-the-board idential sum, the relative value of the minimum pension (including a compensation payment) to the subsistence minimum for a pensioner was 79 percent, by December it had fallen to 57.1 percent, and in January it was 42.1 percent. The explanation was simple: During the three final quarters only linear indexation (a proportionate increase) was being carried out.

The pension increase that was carried out in February 1995 in the form of compensation, permitted this relative value to be raised by almost 10 percentage points (from 42 to 52 percent). Thereafter the much talked about routine and nonroutine linear indexations were carried out. And what was the result: The minimum pension in Russia is now all of 40 percent of the subsistence minimum. What is more, pensions have begun to be paid late. What is in store for the pensioners this time?

Nazarchuk Mistrusts Market To Sort Agriculture Out

MM0611170095 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Savin: "Will We Have Bread?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "You get what you pay for," was how Aleksandr Nazarchuk, Russian minister of agriculture and food, assessed the results of the agrarian sector of the economy's work when addressing a news conference in Moscow 1 November. Those results, as we know, make depressing reading. The grain harvest is the lowest for several decades, the production of livestock output has fallen again, a whole sector — poultry raising — is in danger of disappearing, and the countryside's technical base is falling apart.

The sector has almost reached the "limits" of the slump in production "planned" by the Russian Federation Economics Ministry.

The policy based on the principle "the market will sort everything out" has failed. The state must regulate the agro-industrial complex, as it does throughout the world, the minister stressed. The relevant law has already been given three readings by the State Duma and it is now down to the president to decide whether this important document gets the go-ahead.

While recognizing how complex the country's grain balance is becoming, the head of the agrarian department believes nevertheless that the harvest of 65 million tonnes of grain is enough to ensure the Russian population's supply of bread, flour, groats, and pasta. The main problem is the purchase of the crop from the country's commodity producers. Only one-tenth of the planned federal reserve has been procured, the Federal Food Corporation has no money, and talks with the commercial banks are proving difficult. There is a danger that some of the grain will go abroad or else will be bought up from the peasants by the commercial structures which will then offer it at world prices. And those prices will go up: Foreign commodity exchanges are offering grain at $180-$200 a tonne or higher.

A. Nazarchuk described as unfounded the statement carried in the press that a kilo of bread will cost over 10,000 rubles [R] by the end of the year. According to the forecasts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the price will not exceed R5,500. Once again much here depends on the position of the authorities, on the rate of value-added tax, and the rate of interest that the Federal food Corporation is charged for grain credits. The reality is that the peasant's labor represents no more than R800 of the price for 1 kg of bread. The remaining thousands come from the costs and mark-ups imposed by the processing industry, traders, and the state itself.

The minister reaffirmed his negative attitude toward the free buying and selling of agricultural land which threatens to rob the peasantry of their main asset. At the same time he conceded that land relations cannot be frozen in their present form. In his view the way to redistribute land in favor of efficient peasants at the moment is by means of leasing, as they are doing in Germany, for example.

Inflation Trends Prove Government Forecasts 'Wrong'

MM0711101295 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by political observer Vitaliy Golovachev: "Topic of the Day: Prices Do Not Bow to Vice Premier"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time since the beginning of the year inflation did not fall in October, as happened in the period January-September, but rose. Not so long ago First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays said passionately and with conviction on television that the "consumer price index will carry on falling every month. In July it was lower than in June, in August lower than in July, and in September lower than in August, and so on until the end of the year...." October

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disproved the first vice premier's projection: Prices rose by 4.7 percent, yet in September this index stood at 4.5 percent. Not that large an increase, you would have thought, but an important trend.

Every family's budget shows the impact of inflation without the need for any statistics. In Moscow, for instance, in the last week of October alone the price of flour, rye and rye-wheat bread, and eggs rose by 5.4, 4, and 18.9 percent respectively (the price of eggs is close to 4,500 rubles [R] in the stores and R7,500 on the markets. Incidentally, one dozen eggs cost R18,000 in Anadyr).

In my view, it is particularly alarming that the government's forecasts are wrong year in and year out. The official documents published last November said: Consumer prices in 1995 (December on December) will rise by a factor of 1.3. That is over a whole year. But in actual fact they have risen by a factor of 2.14 over the last 10 months. Note the difference. Today I think that many eminent leaders are ashamed to remember the widely publicized "Statement of the Government and Central Bank of the Russian Federation on Economic Policy in 1995." Here is just one quotation from the "Statement," signed eight months ago: "The main aim in 1995 is to reduce average inflation to around 4 percent per month in 1995 and to around 1 percent per month during the second half of 1995." It is understandable that the government can also make mistakes, but on such a scale?... (I discount the idea that citizens are being deliberately deceived since there should be a quite different discussion in that case).

Why then, after "squeezing" the money supply beyond all measure (which aggravated the highly acute crisis of nonpayments in the economy and brought wage arrears to almost R10 trillion), can the government not achieve its aim of bringing down inflation? Because it is necessary to treat not the external manifestations of the disease but the disease itself. The economy has plumbed the very depths, falling capital investment has long since failed to compensate for the destruction of fixed capital, there is more talk than action when it comes to reorganization and state involvement here, and the promised process of large-scale rescue and rehabilitation packages and enterprise bankruptcy has not even begun. Another point is the strange war in which Russia has gotten embroiled in Chechnya and which should not be expected to end in the near future. Trillions of rubles are being spent on the war rather than on the economy.

Needless to say, there have also been improvements in the course of reform — an end to the general slump in production, the acclimatization of many enterprises to the new conditions, and so on. But you are bound to notice that the negative trends are also gaining momentum. This is illustrated by the comparatively high inflation figure in October, which is still failing to bow to the government or the first vice premier.

Chubays Commission Views Region's Missing Trillions

MM0611155795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (Weekend Edition) in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by V. Kucherenko: "On 'Errant' Money, Bread, and Fuel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Government commissions spent the whole day in session 1 November. Attention was focused on "winter" problems, the need to top the budget up, and on the food supply.

The commission for improving the system of payments, chaired by First Vice Premier A. Chubays, tried to ascertain how efficiently state money is being used in the agro-industrial complex. However, the discussion took a different direction: It dealt with the extremely chaotic state of the economic mechanism in the countryside. A. Nazarchuk, chief of the Agriculture Ministry, demonstrated that funds are often not used for their intended purpose of course. Agriculture is in an extremely impoverished state, prices for fuel, fertilizers, machinery, and transport are rising constantly, and the trade system is not settling its debts with the peasants but the countryside cannot raise its prices any further — there is no demand for its produce. And Nazarchuk demanded again: Give us more money.

But how much money is actually being spent on the countryside? In the Agriculture Ministry's opinion very little, just 12 trillion [rubles] this year, according to the plan. The Finance Ministry claims that the figure is almost 70 trillion including credits backed up the state guarantee, tax exemptions, and commodity loans.

But the real situation is this: There are trillions circulating unchecked goodness knows where (especially in the regional production funds), the big cities have turned toward imports, and the subsidy system has broken down (although it is in full swing among our Western competitors).

The result of the attempt to remedy matters using commodity credits is that the fuel and machine building industries and middlemen such as "Rosagrosnab" are raising their prices and up to one-third of the state's meager aid to the countryside remains in the commercial structures' accounts.

The banks, which should be issuing Finance Ministry-guaranteed credits, either are in no hurry to do so

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because they have no faith in stability or else they are imposing punitive additional conditions. The plan for federal food stock procurements is being disrupted. To all intents and purposes the state still has no program stipulating what should be done in the countryside and how.

Bearing this in mind, Vice Premier A. Chubays ordered of a working group under the Economics Ministry's auspices to be formed in order to resolve the most urgent problems. A "flying squad" of specialists from the State Taxation Service and the Federal Insolvency Administration will deal with debtors.

The situation as regards the formation of winter fuel stocks is also tense. First Vice Premier O. Soskovets' operational questions commission noted that this is due to the consumers' inability to pay. Compared with last year's figures coal procurement is down to only 86 percent and fuel oil is down to 81 percent. The situation is particularly severe in Archangelsk Oblast where enterprises in the military-industrial complex and the timber industry have been left without money. The situation in other regions — Kamchatka and Sakhalin — is also dire.

There is tension in relations between workers in the transport industry and the power industry. The Rail Ministry claims that the gas and oil industries are not maintaining their promised price freeze but are raising prices instead. At first the Fuel and Energy Ministry denied that but then blamed underfunding from the budget.

It has been decided to leave in force the procedure whereby a number of vitally important installations must not be cut off from the power and heat systems under any circumstances.

According to Deputy Finance Minister A. Samusev, resources are being sought urgently. "Unorthodox" measures will also have to be used. For example, it will be necessary to attract more state-guaranteed credits from the commercial banks and settle bills using state securities and tax breaks. In short, the bill will be settled using future treasury revenue. Wider use will be made of the issue of budget loans.

Budget Forum Fails To Discuss 'New Approaches'

MM0711095395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (Departmental Supplement Section) in Russian 4 Nov 95 p 9

[Report by Aleksandr Velichenkov: "There May Be Changes in the Budget. Budget Debates Are Now Taking Place in a Civilized Manner — at Scientific Conferences. But It Will Still Be Deputies Who Have To Decide"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the sides' promises to find an acceptable compromise, the differences between the government and the State Duma over the assumed inflation rate in 1996 are fundamental. The government is still insisting on a forecast of 1-2 percent per month, the Duma claims the figure will be 4-5 percent, and the "Yabloko" faction, to which M. Zadornov, chairman of the Duma Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finance Commission, belongs, is speaking of a possible 8-10 percent.

In order to clarify the sides' positions the Russian Federation Economics Ministry and the Government Commission on Economic Reform held a scientific and practical conference in Moscow 27-28 October on "Development Paths of the Russian Economy in 1995-1997." The discussion focused on the "standard" problems in our situation — inflation, the budget and the budget deficit, currency and financial policy, taxes and tax reform, and certain others.

The intention was that different scientific schools upholding alternative concepts of Russia's economic development would be represented at the conference. In inviting its main opponents to take part in an open scientific debate the government was hoping for constructive discussion of the road traveled by the Russian economy during the reform years and prospects for its development.

Not all these intentions were realized, and none of the "Yabloko" invitees came to the conference, which sharply reduced the intensity of the polemic. In the absence of the main Duma opponents the speeches of Academicians L. Abalkin and D. Lvov and also of Deputy S. Glazyev were diluted among the general mass of opinions in support of the policy of stabilization that is being pursued. Representatives of practically all government departments and institutions spoke in this vein. Their main conclusions were these: There are no alternatives to a tough credit and monetary policy; there is no need to transform the tax system by increasing resource-rent payments while simultaneously cutting (or abolishing) value-added tax; the inflation forecast and the budget guidelines for 1996 should be left in the form in which they were put together by the government.

All this could only be welcomed if the conference had carefully analyzed and pondered the "newly revealed circumstances" that have emerged this year: The end of the dollarization of our economy; the process of the decline in the dollar exchange rate, halted by the Central Bank; the appearance of the currency band and, as a consequence, the formation of a "nominal anchor,"

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in other words, the attainment by internal prices of the "dollar ceiling" that, given the band, price inflation cannot exceed because of the competition from imports; and the decline in ruble prices of imported consumer goods.

If you compare these processes with the fact that the real money supply in Russia as a proportion of domestic product has approximately halved every year of the reforms (this is not to be confused with the nominal money supply, which has increased), it is quite simple to conclude that in these new conditions the monetarist policy is beginning to outlive its usefulness and a need for new approaches is emerging — and it was precisely discussion of these new approaches that was missing.

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International Affairs

Kuchma, Marchuk Send Condolences to Israeli Leader

LD0611133695 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev (UNIAR) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, and people's deputy [Odessa Mayor] Eduard Hurvits left for Jerusalem today to attend the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who was killed on 4 November.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk have sent a telegram to Israeli acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, stressing that Ukraine has always had an attitude of great respect and esteem toward Yitzhaq Rabin, greatly valuing his efforts on the path to achieving peace in the Middle East and his role in the development and consolidation of partnership relations between Ukraine and Israel. "The tragic death of Israel's prime minister evokes feelings of pain and sorrow in our state's people, who share the grief of the Israeli people over this great loss," the telegram from Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk says.

Romanian Intention to Site NATO Nuclear Weapons Feared

LD0611205395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between Kiev and Bucharest may become complicated. According to the POSTFACTUM agency, Ukrainian authorities have expressed fears [opaseniye] over Romania's intention to site NATO nuclear weapons on its territory. According to some reports, that problem has already become a topic of closed talks between the Ukrainian and Romanian military.

G-7 Experts, Officials Agree on Chernobyl Closure

LD0311150995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1439 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 3 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Ukrainian Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko speaking on Friday said Kiev and G-7 countries would hold further talks on when exactly the Chernobyl nuclear power plant will be shut down.

Ukrainian officials and G-7 experts agreed on a memorandum for the closure of the facility after a two-day meeting in Kiev on Thursday.

Kostenko said the closure schedule was negotiable since the memorandum provides no guarantees of financing. G-7, he said, cannot provide aid guarantees as it is not an artificial person. He said the memorandum itself was not clearly binding on Ukraine either.

The minister said Kiev would be guided by the Ukrainian president's letter to G-7 reaffirming plans to close the facility by the year 2000, but it also mentions reciprocal steps to account for Ukraine's national interests if western aid is not forthcoming.

Kostenko said the West has so far failed to provide any financial aid to help close the Chernobyl station.

The minister quoted expert estimates as saying it would cost from $3 billion to $4 billion to shut down the nuclear plant. But he said the two sides were bound not to disclose any aid figures until these had been finally agreed.

The minister put at $490 million the amount of western aid made available for updating the country's energy sector.

The sides also discussed how to increase the capacities of the Rovno and Khmel'nitsk nuclear power stations to help offset those lost from the Chernobyl closure. G-7 experts rejected the idea of replacing Chernobyl by a conventional power plant two months ago.

Shmarov in Talks With Russia on Peacekeepers' Command

LD0411152395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — "Kiev and Moscow are looking for a form of peacekeeping operation in former Yugoslavia which would make it possible to continue the peacekeeping mission while avoiding direct subordination to the NATO command," Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov told correspondents after a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Government in Moscow.

He said the meeting discussed the possibility of constructing international forces under the UN mandate which could cooperate with the NATO contingent without being subordinate to it.

Kiev Seeks Return of POW's in Afghanistan

WS0611144395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0635 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 4 — As of today, 80 citizens of Ukraine who took part in Soviet military actions in Afghanistan in 1979-89 are still being held prisoner, according to Valeriy Abyazov, the deputy chairman of the committee of war veterans in Afghanistan and military conflicts in other countries.

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Abyazov, whose committee is headed by President Leonid Kuchma, told INTELNEWS that about 25 percent — or 3,360 — of the Ukrainians who participated in the 10-year conflict never returned. For Russia, the rate is 50 percent, while all other republics equal the Ukrainian statistic.

Abyazov said the problem of prisoners of war and those who are missing in Afghanistan still has not been solved effectively, despite the involvement of international organizations such as the United Nations and the April establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Afghanistan.

The Ukrainian official blamed what he called the continuing instability of the political situation in Afghanistan, noting that the central government does not control the situation in much of the country. According to Abyaziov, the problem of prisoners of war became not only humanitarian, but also to a large extent political, and prisoners themselves are now "political hostages."

Overall, as of today, the total number of former Soviet citizens, who participated in military actions in Afghanistan in 1979-89 and being considered as missing and in prison in Afghanistan constitutes 289 people.

Country Starts Repaying Natural Gas Debts to Russia

MM0711114895 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Ukraine Begins Paying Its Debt for Gas Deliveries" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian Ministry of Finance has made the first payment of $62.8 million to the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company to service its debt for natural gas delivered back in 1994; the total debt amounts to $1.4 billion.

Let me remind readers that 21 March this year the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company and the Ukrainian Government signed an agreement on the principles for settling the debt. In accordance with this document, the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance issued hard currency bonds to the total sum of the debt in four tranches, and these were transferred to the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company. And although redemption of these bonds was scheduled to begin in summer 1997, provision was made for the payment of quarterly warrant payments on these securities at the rate of 8.5 percent per annum. Moreover, according to the terms of the agreement, the interest for the first three quarters of the current year was supposed to be paid in October, which, in point of fact, Ukraine has indeed done, thereby showing its readiness to redirect its economic relations with Russia along a civilized channel.

Practical work on receiving the warrant revenue was handled by the "National Credit" Bank, which was authorized by the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company to hold the bonds and be the payment agent. Andrey Solovyev, chief of the "National Credit" Securities Department, has stated that no problems have arisen regarding the receipt of the interest on the bonds — the money has even already been transferred to the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company's account.

Curiously, according to the terms of the agreement, the hard currency bonds can not only circulate on the markets of Ukraine, Russia, and third countries, but are also an accepted means of payment at auctions for the sale of shares in Ukrainian enterprises. In this regard they are significantly different from, say, hard currency bonds issued by the Foreign Economic Bank in Russia. These regulations for the use of securities could be of considerable interest to Russian investors, since the bonds enable investors to bypass the various restrictions which exist for foreign countries wishing to participate in Ukrainian privatization.

However, so far the "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company has not sold the securities which it owns. But, A. Solovyev stated, this is due to the fact that the bonds were transferred to the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance in order to obtain the warrant income; the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance literally cut out the warrant coupons, and then had to return the securities to the depositories of the "National Credit" Bank. Now this procedure has been virtually completed, and the bonds can be offered for sale as early as next week.

According to initial reports, interest in Ukrainian securities is considerably high. In the words of the aforesaid A. Solovyev, the bank already has several dozen applications to purchase hard currency bonds, and such applications are continuing to arrive.

British Trade Delegation Praises Investment Climate

WS0611144295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0635 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 5 — The Ukrainian investment climate has changed drastically for the better, Derek Hornby, head of Great Britain's Foreign Trade Council, said.

Hornby was recently in Ukraine leading a delegation of British businessmen.

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"Changes effected within the Ukrainian taxation system, in particular the free currency exchange, made Ukraine a profitable country for investments," Hornby said.

British businessmen and Ukrainian government representatives touched upon the possibility to create a consulting expert groups to elaborate future projects of cooperation.

Hornby said that during the last year the amount of trade between Great Britain and Ukraine increased by 40 percent.

National Affairs

Moroz Addresses Nation on Revolution Anniversary

LD0611224395 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We will now broadcast an appeal by Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz to the people of our state.

[Begin Moroz recording] Dear friends, I would like to address you on the occasion of an important date in the life of our society — 7 November. Attitudes to this holiday both in Ukraine and throughout the world vary, but nobody can ignore it because it brought so many changes to the development of civilization. These changes were positive, despite all the deviations from the important idea of the October revolution. That is what happened. Those who condemn the October revolution from the positions of the present Ukrainian statehood should remember that neither the emperor nor the provisional government had the slightest idea about the sovereign rights of Ukraine — its language, culture, and statehood.

Ukraine would certainly have become a state in other ways, but if this had happened its lands would not have united had it not been for the October revolution and the heroic struggles of 1939-45, when fascism was resisted by a great power which was defended by representatives of over 100 nations, who also defended Ukraine.

One should recall this especially now when celebrating the liberation of our country's capital. Would Ukraine have been a state if it had not been for the events of the last decade? Nobody can say what could have happened. History is a specific thing. That is how it happened. We should know our history, its periods, and the most important events. During these times, Kiev remembers the young students who sacrificed their lives near Kruty. It was a tragic chapter in the history of Kiev and Ukraine. Young men have a zest for life. The young men and women who became the victims of the Tripolye [village in Ukraine] tragedy also probably wanted to live. I do not know if someone has researched this, but one can assume that some victims of both Kruty and Tripolye had the same parents. At least we can say with certainly that they had one mother — our Ukraine.

Let us not judge any of them, so that Ukraine suffers no greater pain than seeing brother fight to the death against brother and father against son. They wanted to improve their lot for themselves and their people. We should not strictly bind our present positions and behavior to those events of long ago. We must give an appraisement of ourselves.

On 7 November, our citizens will gather in rallies under various slogans. We will witness anxiety and indignation, and there will be diverse appeals. May that happen. There is nothing unusual in that. We should remember that only an objective view of history and of the events of today will help us to unite the people. October is a part of our lives, both for those who offer their unqualifying support to it and for those who do not accept it. May the political discussion focus on the representatives of all social movements in the Ukrainian parliament. May it crystalize the truth, accord, suffering, and trust. We may have different tactics and positions, and make mistakes. We may listen more than is necessary to outside advice, but we should know that nobody will conquer or destroy us unless we destroy ourselves, as has happened in our history on more than one occasion.

By our intolerance we will destroy the ability to listen to other viewpoints. I greet you all, dear compatriots. May hope and this holiday enter your souls through your anxieties, problems, and everyday difficulties. [end recording]

Nationalist Leader Zhyzhko Views Goals, Takes Power

AU0711130095 Kiev UKRAYINSKA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 16 (81) 2 Nov p 7

[Article by Serhiy Zhyzhko, first deputy chairman of KUN: "KUN Is Looking For Patriots. What Kind of State Sincere and Devoted Sons of Ukraine Want To See" — first four paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [KUN], which was created in Ukraine three years ago, is gradually gaining political strength. Today, the organization already unites 14,000 members and, together with associate members, more than 50,000. The party's cells function in all the Ukrainian oblasts and in the Autonomous Crimean Republic.*

In the Ukrainian Supreme Council, KUN is represented by seven people's deputies.

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In September, KUN held its second meeting. The delegates endorsed the powers of KUN Chairman Slava Stetsko and her First Deputy Serhiy Zhyzhko.

At UKRAYINSKA HAZETA's request, Serhiy Zhyzhko explains the present state of the nationalist movement in Ukraine.

We can now state the Ukrainian people's greatest achievement throughout the history of our state's existence, the national liberation struggle that the organized Ukrainian nationalist movement has been waging in the 20th century, has victoriously culminated in the creation of an independent Ukrainian state. However, we should not be carried away excessively. The political and economic situation that has taken shape over the four years of the so-called "transitional period" to complete independence indicates that the Ukrainian people's national liberation struggle requires a qualitative completion. The task of the new nationalist movement is to remove the irresponsible and extortionist communist nomenklatura in the guise of democrats from power, to neutralize the organized "fifth column," to reform national institutions and strengthen them with conscious national personnel, to fill them with Ukrainian content, and to thwart neocolonial encroachments upon the Ukrainian statehood.

How is this to be achieved? The main strategic goal here is to take power. This may be accomplished if every Ukrainian realizes that he and his children are not "one Russian family," but a great and independent Ukrainian nation.

I am not talking about cabinet power, represented by honorable patriotic specialists, incapable of pursuing a qualitatively new Ukrainian policy, but about power imbued with revolutionary spirit that would, in a short time, produce radical changes in all spheres of political and economic life. I mean a vertical presidential structure filled with national content and political will. A Ukrainian nationalist, a great and sincere Ukrainian patriot, must become Ukrainian president. We must find such a person.

To achieve our strategic goal, the Ukrainian nationalist movement must fulfill the following main functions and tasks:

1) national identity of our society — promotion of the Ukrainian National Ideal;
2) national-defense activity — active and efficient defense of the interests of Ukrainians, consolidation of Ukrainians in all walks of life, and neutralization of anti-Ukrainian manifestations;
3) measures for organizing the nation — creation and coordination of national patriotic structures;
4) orientation toward the building of the state — struggle for positions in the power structures and implementation of nationalist programs.

Over the three years of KUN's activity in all social spheres, public organizations, and regions of Ukraine, the ideology of Ukrainian nationalism has been disseminated and the role in Ukrainian history of the national liberation struggle waged by the OUN-UPA [Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-Ukrainian Insurrection Army] and of the political principles of the Congress was brought home to the people. With the help of tens of thousands of books, pamphlets, newspapers, press publications, and television programs, and through political actions, numerous cliches, labels, and falsifications created by communist propaganda over decades to split the Ukrainian people have been dispelled.

It is extremely important today for the political elite and society to become aware that I, you, and he are Ukrainians, that all of us together are Ukrainians and all of us are an independent and free Ukraine. Our enemies and false patriots-internationalists should not be angry or protest against Ukrainians wanting to be Ukrainians. We, Ukrainian nationalists and Ukrainian patriots, do not object to Jews, Russians, Bulgarians, Germans, Poles, or other people stating: I am a Jew, I am a Russian, I am a Bulgarian, I am a German, or I am a Pole, etc. Say that and love your own nations, but also love and cherish Ukraine and be loyal to Ukraine, which has granted you the right to live on its land and to be its citizens.

Paradoxically, the life of Ukrainians on their own land is particularly difficult. We must wake up and wake others up. To carry out such propagandistic and ideological work, it is necessary to create a publishing foundation, a nationwide Ukrainian paper, and television studios. The discussion on the Ukrainian national ideal, which has lately become confined to political parties (even of liberal orientation, on the "political situation"), must be brought into parliament and the executive structures and become a subject for public political thought. Nationalists formulated principles and practices for the nation's spiritual rebirth long ago. It is precisely they who are obliged to achieve the highest level of national self-identification and organization of the Ukrainian nation.

I am convinced and I believe that the main part of the communist nomenklatura will be banished from governing the state in the very near future. The part of the nation that was born in the postwar period will prevail politically and socially. After five or 10 years of our national rebirth, following a period of professional and political development, politically active

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young people who were active in parties and public and youth organizations will occupy leading positions in various spheres of state and economic life. It is precisely these young people who must be indoctrinated in the national ideal and must be trained to fight for Ukrainian national interests. Incidentally, Serhiy Holovatyy, who recently became head of Ukraine's Ministry of Justice, is the first such young nationalist outrider.

Over the period of its activity, KUN has spread its activities to 25 oblasts and to more than 200 rayons of Ukraine. These numbers are among the highest achieved by Ukrainian patriotic parties. One of the congress's strategic goals is work with public organizations. Members of the congress participate in building the structures of the Hr. Vashchenko Pedagogical Society, the M. Mikhnovskyy Society of Scientists and Specialists, the Stepan Bandera Sports and Patriotic Society, and the Association of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, as well as a number of youth organizations. Congress activists work in public organizations "Prosvita" [Enlightenment] named after Taras Shevchenko [a poet] and among Ukrainian Cossacks and cooperate with the Ukrainian Officers' Union, where the ideology of Ukrainian nationalism is being promoted.

In the very near future, we plan to extend a considerable part of our activities to areas in the upper reaches of the Dnieper and eastern Ukrainian oblasts, so that, using a system of activities, advertising campaigns, and elections, congress organizations could be created in every rayon center and local residents could be trained for the political struggle on their territories.

As things stand at present, as conditions deteriorate in Ukraine over the struggle for the redivision of power and property, experience in national defense and revolutionary construction is becoming essential. OUN national defense activity was based upon fanatical promotion of the Ukrainian national ideal and the propagation of this ideal was strengthened with sacrificial national-defense activities that gave the organization great prestige among the people so that it became a true and single leader of the nation in the liberation struggle from the 1930s to the 1950s.

For national-defense activity to be successful, it is important to determine correctly the objective of the struggle and suitable tactics for the struggle conducted by numerous nationalist structures. For example, in the conditions of the 1930s, the OUN did not call upon the people to rise, did not in the 1940s limit its activities to armed struggle alone, and in the 1950s did not call for a boycott of the state monopoly on tobacco and vodka.

At the present stage, anti-Ukrainian and antistate forces are everywhere openly or in disguise; they are mafioso clans, which are looting the state and the people; they are numerous parties and public organizations whose activities need to be stopped, television channels, the press, and literature that poison the nation's soul. All of them have concrete surnames, names, and spheres of activity.

Forms of struggle against them at the first stage of development of the nationalist movement may consist of political argument: exposures, public events, press publications, boycotts, court proceedings, and appeals to concrete persons. After the nationalist forces come to power, all destructive factors will be decisively neutralized in accordance with the law.

The present deformed national community cannot decide the fate of future generations. That is why every conscious Ukrainian must open the eyes of fellow citizens who have been deprived of their national identity, Russified, and who only want "bread and circuses," and make them proud of the greatness and future destination of our great and glorious nation.

Economic Issues

Deputies Discuss Hryvnia in Closed-Door Session

WS0611110095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0220 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 3 — In a closed-door session on Friday [3 November], Parliament ordered the Prosecutor General's Office to examine the proposed issuance of the hryvnia, Ukraine's new currency, to assure a fair introduction in replacing the current karbovanets.

At the meeting, a commission of parliamentary deputies presented results of their study of all officials connected with issuing money in the country. Parliament said that it took the commission's findings into consideration and moved to forward copies of the findings to all official bodies involved in money issuing, including the National Bank of Ukraine [NBU].

Halyna Starovoytova, secretary for Parliament's anti-corruption and organized crime committee, told deputies about the existing mechanisms to protect Ukraine's currency.

Parliament Presidium member Valeriy Cherep told INTELNEWS that officials at the meeting were informed about the current status of hryvnia notes, which are being printed in Canada and Great Britain, although the introduction process is being delayed.

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Cherep said that the hryvnia introduction process should not be dragged out. However, he said that the introduction must not take place until favorable economic conditions exist in Ukraine.

President Leonid Kuchma previously stated that the hryvnia would be introduced by October. Kuchma later said that the currency's debut would be delayed because of unfavorable economic conditions.

NBU Governor Viktor Yushchenko and representatives from ministries of economics and finance also attended the closed-door session on Friday.

Minister for Machine Building Interviewed

WS0611155095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2104 GMT 5 Nov 95

[Interview with Valeriy Malev, Ukrainian minister for machine building, the military-industrial complex and conversion, by Andriy Yevtushenko; from the "Economic Review" feature; place and date not given — first three paragraphs are INTELNEWS introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reaching its hand across the waters is in part how Ukraine's industries will fill its pockets with revenue, according to Valeriy Malev. He points to deals struck with other countries in the shipbuilding and aerospace industries. Financial Industrial Groups will also help, he said.

"High technologies will help Ukraine pull out of crisis," according to Malev.

Ukraine has the foundation for attracting foreign companies to produce high-technology products but success will only come through tough competition with Russia and other former-Soviet Union countries.

[ER] What is your opinion about Ukrainian strategists not yet establishing the economy's priorities.

[MALEV] The main priority is keeping highly developed technologies in Ukraine. As we know, they are concentrated in the military industrial branch; they determine the scientific-technical potential of the state — they will help us tear Ukraine out of economic crisis.

The weakest link is deep market studying — searching for new customers ready to pay nominal charges for duties settled by the customer. With inflation's current speed and all the price-creating rules broken, state regulation of price growth for all energy and raw material sources is rather important. I do not mean breaking market-setting approaches. Instead, I mean the state veto intended to set up prices that don't respond to price proportions and makes final production noncompetitive.

We have to keep in mind that Ukrainian domestic needs in machine building production can make up to 25-30 percent of domestic production. That is why the first duty today is to search for new commodity markets for our domestic products.

[ER] Do we have experience in this sphere?

[MALEV] I would especially like to point to shipbuilders in Kherson and Mykolayiv and transformer builders in Zaporizhzhya. Ukrainian enterprises found commodity markets for their products in those regions that used to be untraditional for us. This is in South and Central America, South Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia countries.

Export to China, for example, compared to the first quarter of 1995 and the fourth quarter of 1994 grew from US$ 1,993,000 to US$ 10,162,000; to India from US$ 7,777,000 to US$ 13,369,000; to Egypt from US$ 240,000 to US$ 1,080,000.

Trading delegations of the specialized UkrInmash firm are acting in India, Syria, United Arab Emirates and it is planned to open delegations in Cuba and Egypt.

To investigate market opportunities, Auto-ZAZ — Ukraine's largest car manufacturer — sent delegations to France, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Panama, Columbia, Malta, Egypt, while ZaporizhTransformator transformer producer sent delegations to the Czech Republic and Argentina and KrAZ truck producer sent delegations to Columbia and China.

Presently, 30 international treaties were signed and are acting between the CIS and Baltic countries. Among them are trade-economic collaborations, scientific-economic and military-technical cooperation and cooperation in some machinery-building military industrial branches.

AvtoZAZ signed 384 treaties in 1994 to supply cars to the CIS and Baltic countries. KrAZ supplied 6,086 trucks for the total price of KBV 1.71 billion in 1994 and 1,549 trucks for the total price of KBV 3.09 billion in the first six months of the current year.

[ER] The machinery-building branch took the lead in creating industrial-financial conglomerates. That led to a complicated reaction within Parliament among other places. How do you treat them?

[MALEV] I think we hesitated too much about developing those processes. Today, industry does not join financial capital and cannot break out of its crisis. World experience also vouches for the Financial Industrial Group [FIG]. Attracting capital to the Ukrainian economy would be the right way. We should not be afraid of this.

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For example, the German machinery building pride Opel is a 100-percent American company, although the German exchequer gains rather high budget incomes.

The Machinery Building Ministry foresees a definite perspective in FIG creation with Russian enterprises and establishments in metallurgical, building transport machinery, building hoisting cranes, special technical equipment, piloting space craft, producing chemical fibers facilities, grain harvesting equipment, gathering sugar beetroot processing progressive technologies, building agriculture machinery, building houses and railway transport.

[ER] Energy accounts gave real grief to Ukrainian enterprises. What is the way to cut this Gordian knot?

[MALEV] When solving this problem, the state dictates what I have spoken about is desperately needed. Nowadays, energy workers are trying to convince us that energy prices in Ukraine are three times lower than in West Europe.

However, it is remarkable that constitutive prices are entirely different from European ones as well. Labor expenditures there are evaluated much higher, starting with ores and metal producing and up to electric engines, power stations exploitation, etc. Even though many machinery builders evaluate their production at the world level.

The problem is that by force of incredibly high prices for raw material and energy sources, production volume was shortened by enterprises and, as a matter of fact, prices for maintaining main foundations and salaries remained at the same level. This correlation must respond to each other.

[ER] Many enterprise directors where production has stopped treat state support too literally for some reason and treat it only as subsidizes for salaries or energy supply payments.

[MALEV] Of course this approach is too primitive and wrong. Yet there are some enterprises in Ukraine where highly developed technologies are accumulated but for some reason their production is not temporarily demanded. It is very important to save these enterprises — that is why they need state support. They include state giants such as PivdenMash or Motor-Sich, where great state technological and scientific potential is concentrated.

If they get incorporated, a considerable amount of their share will belong to the state so it must rule its property and decide which enterprises are worthy of support and which aren't.

[ER] What are the perspectives for Ukraine's machinery exports?

[MALEV] As soon as we approached our producer's gains, let's look through one more aspect of our job. In my opinion, we wasted market space among the CIS countries too calmly, especially in Russia. We have to hold on to them — no competition to be aloud.

Today we long to improve the situation. The agreement on hydro facilities and agriculture facilities has already been reached. This production will be supplied to Russian plants. There, of course, they have their own problems: agriculture machinery producing volume has decreased; that is why demand for our production has fallen, too.

One more situation. Rolls-Royce motors is still involved in plane production at Russian plants despite technical and logical problems. And that is in times when the motor production program in Ukraine is already completed and our enterprises are ready to start producing. We must prove that our motors are of the same high quality and reliability and are more advantageous because of their price.

But exports must by stimulated by legislation. Today in Ukrainian, production has a good deal of handicaps. The last decree concerning liberalization of foreign economic activity that eliminated quotas and licenses and introduced contracts registration could by no means reach its goal because of excessive centralization. I think such problems must be solved locally by workers with corresponding state licenses.

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Belarus

Munitions Depot Explodes; Deaths Reported

MM0611155895 Moscow NTV Television in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Oct 95

[From the "Segodnya" program: Video report from Dobrush-6 in Belarus by Aleksandr Stupnikov, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Stupnikov over video of buildings in woods, checkpoint, "Keep Out!" sign] A terrible tragedy has occurred at a munitions depot in Belarus. The depot, one of the biggest of the former USSR in Europe, where tens of thousands of tonnes of munitions are stored, is located some 380 km from Minsk, in the Chernobyl zone, on the boundary between Gomel and Bryansk Oblasts. The tragedy ocurred underground, in a workshop where artillery powder is processed into powder granules [porokhovaya kroshka]. As a result of the explosion one person died on the spot and three others died soon afterward from horrific burns. They were all civilians. At this depot, known as Dobrush-6, shells are processed by "Biokonvers" — a joint venture.

[Stupnikov over video of large piles of shells lying in the open] All information about the tragedy which occurred at the Dobrush-6 base, and the dreadful consequeces which it could have had for the whole region, are kept strictly secret. The military have hastily set up an improvised commission. Even at the base itself the tragedy is not mentioned aloud, only behind closed doors. Judging by appearances, details about the explosion and peoples' deaths, and the circumstances which led up to them will not be known for a very long time. [passage omitted]

[Stupnikov over more footage of large piles of shells lying in the open] Belarus today is a vast munitions depot in the heart of Europe. And the core of this depot is here, at this base. Had it, for some reason, proved impossible to localize the explosion at the gun powder facility, the scale of the tragedy which could have ensued is difficult to imagine.

[Stupnikov to camera] It is entirely possible that the results of the current investigation by a state commission will resemble the results of the investigation into the deaths of the Americans in the air baloon. Judging by practice current in Belarus, state commissions are established to keep information about various incidents under wraps until people forget about them, if they knew about them in the first place, that is. Aleksandr Stupnikov, Konstantin Morozov reporting for NTV from Belarus. [video shows buildings in woods, check point, "Keep Out!" sign, large piles of munitions lying in the open, glimpses of exterior of base, civilians and uniformed officers performing various tasks]

Prime Minister Views Results of 3 Nov CIS Summit

WS0711095095 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 5 Nov 95

["Exclusive" interview with Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir by Ihar Hryshan on board the prime minister's plane returning from Moscow to Minsk on 3 November — in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Chyhir] The meeting [of CIS countries' government leaders in Moscow on 3 November] was constructive. It produced concrete results. The most important thing is that another three states agreed to join the unified customs area, which now comprises Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.

[Hryshan] Nevertheless, some government leaders did not sign certain draft documents. Why, in your opinion, did they not sign them?

[Chyhir] First of all, there are different opinions on many key issues. We agreed, however, that the signed documents will be implemented by states which want to participate in cooperation on certain issues. I think it is not essential that all states entirely agree on all issues. This will come with time. A state first stands aloof from cooperation on a certain issue, and then after some time it reexamines this issue. Documents are open for signing, and this state joins agreements signed previously by other states. There have been many similar cases.

[Hryshan] As we have learned, you and Presidential Administration Chief Mikhail Myasnikovich yesterday and today held meetings with [Russian Prime Minister] Viktor Chernomyrdin and [Russian Deputy Prime Minister] Oleg Soskovets. If it is no secret, what issues did you discuss, and what conclusions did you draw?

[Chyhir] First of all, we discussed the issue of debts for deliveries of Russian gas to Belarus. I think that although we made no final decision, certain approaches were developed, and we will be able to somehow improve payments for deliveries of gas to Belarus. One of the options is to improve payments for deliveries of our industrial products to Russia. The debt for deliveries of military equipment alone currently exceeds 160 billion Russian rubles. I think that if payments for deliveries of industrial products improve, we will be able to reduce our debt for deliveries of gas. There are also other approaches toward the improvement of payments for gas.

Additionally, we discussed the issue of prices, and pricing policy in 1996. Although no final decision was

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made, we agreed that Deputy Prime Minister Soskovets will soon visit Belarus. I think we will finally draft certain documents by the time of this visit, and the final decision will be made after the visit.

[Hryshan] What should be done, in your opinion, to finally implement the hundreds of signed documents?

[Chyhir] This is everyone's wish. The most difficult thing along the path toward economic integration is that many states are afraid to set up supranational bodies. The suspicion of many states towards the [CIS] Court and the Interstate Economic Committee alienates these states, though I believe that their concerns are normal. Moreover, if there are some specific undesired consequences, a state may denounce agreements signed earlier and step aside. Although there have been no examples of undesired consequences, such suspicion exists. This suspicion, as you learned during the talks, often brings many issues proposed for debates and signing on the verge of disruption.

[Hryshan] Asked by me today, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin said that he is for both an economic and political union of Slavic states. He also delivered a programmatic speech in favor of this union. What is your attitude toward this? Is it currently realistic to talk not only about an economic union, but also a political one?

[Chyhir] I would say that we should primarily create conditions for economic revival by integrating our economies. First of all, I would say this about the economies of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, because our economies are very deeply integrated. As for a political union, I think time will suggest this to us, and we will slowly mature to this. In this regard, talks should be conducted very carefully to not destroy what is fragile in the area of economic cooperation.

[Hryshan] Did the Ukrainian Government leader agree and sign documents? In general, how did he act at this summit?

[Chyhir] Mr. Marchuk has many doubts, and we agreed that a meeting among Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine will be held in the immediate future. This meeting will be attended by people from ministries of foreign economic relations and the Russian and Belarusian ministries in charge of issues concerning cooperation. I think that after we present the most complete information to our Ukrainian colleagues, as we agreed, they will somewhat revise their position, it is clear that economic integration is economically advisable. As I always say, our economies were initially established as one entity, and it is natural that the purely mechanical division and creation of barriers along the path toward cooperation adversely affect the development of the Russian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian economies, as well as economies of other CIS countries.

[Hryshan] Did Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's illness somehow affect the atmosphere of the meeting, or did it not matter?

[Chyhir] I think that since we discussed purely economic issues today, it did not affect the course of negotiations and debates on economic problems. I must admit, however, that this will evidently affect a meeting of state leaders, because I must say that Boris Nikolayevich is a strong, powerful stronghold, and a guarantee of unification and primarily political cooperation.

Moscow Daily Decries 'Pressure' on Press

MM0611115395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "Belarus Cuts Off Independent Newspapers' Oxygen Supply"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — There is evidently not a single country in Europe where the press is in such a serious position as it is in Belarus owing to pressure from the authorities.

The people around Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who when running for top state office promised a free press, have acted in stages. First the "Belorusskiy Dom Pechati" [Belarusian Press House] Publishing House was handed over to the control of the presidential administration of affairs. What was effectively the only printing house in the republic able to publish a daily republic-wide newspaper was soon forced under pressure from its new masters to deny a number of independent publications printing services. Then a loophole still remained open for newspapers unloved by the president in the form of provincial printing houses.

October marked another large-scale offensive against the press. Alyaksandr Lukashenka himself gave the signal for the attack. He said that the mass media had not responded to his appeal calling for objective coverage of the situation in the republic and the "president is still being clobbered by both right and left." Only 17 issues of the new NARODNAYA VOLYA [People's Will] newspaper have seen the light of day thanks to the presidential printing house. It was founded by Iosif Seredich, former chief editor of the parliamentary NARODNAYA GAZETA, who was sacked by edict of Alyaksandr Lukashenka. The latest issue has not been published since "Belorusskiy Dom Pechati" broke its contract with NARODNAYA VOLYA. On the same day the Gomel printing house said that it would no longer provide printing services for BELORUSSKAYA

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DELOVAYA GAZETA [Belarusian Business Newspaper] and the weekly IMYA [Name]. Repairs that printing officials warned would take a long time provided the formal excuse for this move.

Then Vladimir Zametalin, deputy head of the presidential administration, sent a cable to oblast executive committee chairmen notifying them that henceforth all printing houses only have the right to conclude contracts with independent newspapers once they have gotten his department's consent. Since then BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA and IMYA have been published in Vilnius [Lithuania]. Seeing that these steps have failed to produce the desired effect, the authorities made another move. On virtually the same day the state associations "Minskaya Pochta" and the "Soyuzpechat" periodical distribution agency unilaterally canceled their contracts with independent newspapers.

Nevertheless journalists are not about to give up. Your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by Petr Martsev, publisher of BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA and IMYA, that the newspapers will carry on publishing. Owing to this situation there may be a delay in delivering them to subscribers but it will not last long.

The aggressive actions taken by the Belarusian authorities against their own press can hardly be considered purely an internal republic problem.

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Congratulates Shevardnadze on Reelection

LD0611213995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2038 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 6 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev today cordially congratulated Eduard Shevardnadze on his being elected to the post of president of Georgia.

"The elections that have just been held," says the telegram from the Kazakhstan leader, "have once again confirmed your high authority among the Georgian people, who in the crucial period of the country's history, supported the policy of economic reform, democratization of Georgia's society, and defense of the country's territorial integrity."

Nazarbayev expressed confidence that the traditional friendly Kazakh-Georgian relations will assume a still more dynamic and full-scale character in the interests of both countries and their peoples.

Karmet Status, Government Takeover Noted

964F0302A Almaty EKSPRESS-K in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Stanislav Pesnev: "Three Cabinet of Ministers Decrees in the Last Half Year Concerning One Enterprise—Is This a Lot, or a Little"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Karaganda—The question concerns government documents on the financial-economic improvement of Karmet. On measures to guarantee the fulfillment of contracts with foreign firms and measures for the further stabilization of its work—all these decrees have now been abolished, and a new measure has been adopted "on reformation of the state joint-stock company Karmet," which has already been repeatedly commented upon in the press.

Last week First Deputy Prime Minister N. Isingarin, while in Temirtau, divulged this document to the managers of all services of the combine and commented on the government's position with respect to the future of this metallurgical giant.

Thus, Karmet will become a state enterprise. On 18 October action was stopped on concluded contracts for the export and sale of products and on the delivery of raw materials, fuel, and other materials. All of which will be renewed, reported N. Isingarin, after a study of the situation at the enterprise by government commissions. Three such commissions have been established: Besides the state commission headed by Isingarin, a structure was created for the operational management of the combine headed by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Murtazayev, a commission was created for the financial system under the chairmanship of B. Imashev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Management of Property, and a third commission—on privatization. M. Rakhanov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee on Privatization, became its head. All these structures in the near future are supposed to submit to the government a plan of special measures for stabilizing the financial-economic activity of the combine.

The Rehabilitation Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan will work on the extension of credit of the combine. It has been determined that the social sphere of Karmet will be transferred to the municipal balance sheet.

Against a background of successful examples with enterprises that have been turned over to foreign management, the failures with Karmet look like such a hard nut to crack. Why? Many are now ready to justify the failures with two reasons. First, the lack of experience in privatizing such huge installations, and, second, the uniqueness of such an enterprise as the Karmet combine.

But is it really possible that no one in the government previously pondered the fact that "having passed off" the combine to some investor, all questions would be closed? The trump card—"national property of the republic, a unique enterprise"—is dragged out for some reason in special cases, when it is advantageous, or even senselessly.

Many in this regular scandalous story about Karmet expected a solemn reaction from B. Abilov, president of the Butya firm. Evidently, Butya convinced itself of what an unpleasant mess of a story it could get into itself.

No matter how powerful the large American steel firm United [States] Steel is, it was not able to implement its projects to support Karmet management. The combine is now left with a debt in excess of 30 billion tenge. There are absolutely no reserves of fuel and raw materials; however, there is still a demand for Kazakhstani metal. As before, this is a very profitable article for export and business.

Gigantic industrial complexes, like Karmet, become like grandiose sphinxes that tower lonely in the windswept expanses of the former USSR. No one plans to destroy these enormous organizations, which are atypical for a developed society, but a resolution of their problems requires an atypical approach. Obviously: Karmet, as a state enterprise, is an optimal variant, but the state as

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something indefinite in the role of the boss who should always be the one and only is also a rather debatable question. In this case it is difficult to speak of a single policy, strategy, or tactic when the right of signing is possessed by three officials at the same time.

An attempt is now being made to place responsibility for the unsuccessful campaign on specific persons in the government, in particular, on Deputy Prime Minister V. Mette, who with amazing persistence removed Kazakhstani-Austrian capital from the Karmet combine and introduced American-Israeli capital. It seems that references to the "lack of privatization experience" are groundless. Responsibility for the failure of the grandiose project to transfer Karmet to foreign management should be borne by many officials of the Cabinet of Ministers, starting with the principals, otherwise why is the ponderable managerial apparatus functioning: There are analysts and experts, and the cogs of the substantial state mechanism are revolving, and in reality the mechanism is also idle at times.

Revival Party Prepares for Elections

964F0299A Almaty PANORAMA in Russian No. 42, 28 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Askar Aukenov: "Special Congress of the Revival Party of Kazakhstan Held: 26 Candidates of the Party Intend To Defend the Interests of the Middle Class"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second special congress of the Revival Party of Kazakhstan was held in the conference hall of the Ministry of Justice on 23 October. The main question on the agenda, of course, was the preparations for the parliamentary elections—the adoption of a pre-election platform and the nomination of candidates. Sixty-eight delegates arrived at the congress (of the 80 appointed by a plenum), 56 of whom represented Almaty and 12—oblast party organizations.

The presidium looked quite reputable—besides Altynshash Dzhaganova, the leader of the party, it included Aleksey Moskovich, a presidential adviser, Academician Chastnikov, and other less well-known personalities.

As Madame Dzhaganova emphasized, the candidates from the Revival Party will go into parliament not to formally represent but to resolve the most urgent political, economic, and social problems. She further touched in sufficient detail on the main provisions set forth in the proposed pre-election platform. The tenor of the latter was "the unification of citizens to strengthen their political activeness in overcoming the political, economic, and, mainly, moral crisis in the country." The chairman of the party also expressed herself in favor of cooperation with the Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan.

In the political sphere, besides traditional support for the policy of building a democratic rule-of-law society, the party sets as a task the strengthening of "a feeling of Kazakhstani patriotism." At the same time Madame Dzhaganova noted that "each state perceives democracy in its own way, and has its own peculiarities and limits." She personally interprets democracy as the permanent attention of the country to pensioners, the disabled, the unemployed, and other poor strata of the population. The leader of the party also stated with indignation that "there is not a word regarding the concerns of women in even one government document." She called on future deputies of the PVK [Revival Party of Kazakhstan] to take part in the fight against "the consequences of socialist emancipation."

The economic platform of the party is based on the adoption of effective measures for getting out of the crisis. The main emphasis in industrial policy is being placed on the private production of import exchangeable products and elevation of the processing industries, including craftsman and home industries, which is very important for increasing the employment of women and students. This part of the pre-election program also contains instructions on the need for priority support of the country's businessmen who are engaged in production.

In the financial sphere the party plans to achieve a reduction in the budget deficit, but above all, to put an end to the dissipation of financial resources. In this connection Madame Dzhaganova made mention of 60 insolvent debtors who had received credits under state guarantees.

In the social sphere the party plans to achieve a revision of the ideology of the state policy that views the current direction as secondary and forms expenditures on it according to the residual principle. It is also planned to organize a fund for support of the unemployed, to establish a poverty threshold by way of a consumer basket minimum, and to increase the rates on people's deposits.

Next the PVK leader invited to the rostrum "one of the most remarkable Frenchmen of Russian vintage." To the unpleasant amazement of those present, Mr. Moskovich refrained from directing flattering epithets at the friendly party, but, on the contrary, harshly rebuffed its members for populist expressions. In particular, he briefly described the role of the leadership and parliament of any civilized state. In the opinion of the adviser to the president, there should be a so-called "budget majority" in parliament that supports the policy

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of the president and the government. He placed the Revival Party in this category.

As a result of the voting, the PVK pre-election platform was approved, as well as its 26 candidates for the future parliament. Among its members were teachers, doctors, agrarians, entrepreneurs, scientists, students, pensioners, and disabled persons. Among those candidates who are well-known among the people are Mr. Kozlov, deputy editor of KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA; Academician Chastnikov; and Mr. Omarov, deputy chief of the Almaty city administration. Incidentally, with respect to the last person, some of those present had questions. The fact is that Sharip Omarov is not a member of the PVK. To this, Madame Dzhaganova explained that "Sharip Omarovich is a friend of our party, and he is one of those who helps it," and therefore the question was settled.

The leader of the Revival Party of Kazakhstan herself intends to run in Akmola Oblast.

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Armenia

Second Reactor at Armyanskaya AES Working on Schedule

LD0611182495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, Nov 6 (INTERFAX) — The second reactor of the Armyanskaya nuclear power plant is working to the schedule, the Armenian Atomic Supervision Committee (Armatomenergonadzor) told INTERFAX Monday.

The plant started to produce electricity at about 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, an Armatomenergonadzor spokesman said. "This happened after one of the generating turbines of the second reactor was connected to the republic's energy system. At present, the generator is running at 50 megawatts," he added.

The second reactor's projected capacity is 400 megawatts. "This benchmark will be reached in about two weeks," the spokesman said.

A delegation of Russian experts is expected to arrive in the republic on November 8 to monitor the plant's functioning. The nationwide civil defense exercises were rescheduled from November 7- 8 for a later time due to their arrival. The exercises were to be held in Armenia for the first time ever.

The plant was brought on-line after six years of inactivity. It was closed down for public pressure in February 1989. The Armenian government started to revive the station in 1993. At present, only the second reactor, as the newest of two, is running. Once at projected capacity, the plant will cover up to 30 percent of the republic's demand for electricity.

National Assembly Ratifies International Documents

NC0611202095 Yerevan SNARK in English 0516 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 6 (SNARK) — Today, Armenia's National Assembly ratified agreements on Protecting Victims of Armed Conflicts, on Protecting Copy Rights, on the Activity of the Mir Telecompany, on Establishing a CIS Union of Payments and an Intergovernmental Monetary Committee, as well as on Transporting Military Freights.

The National Assembly also ratified conventions on Preventing Industrial Catastrophies, on Establishing Peace-Keeping Organs within the framework of the OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe], as well as an agreement on Joint Activities with Countries which are not CIS members and on Guarding Borders of CIS countries.

Azerbaijan

'Conspirators' Arrested For Planning Attack on Aliyev

LD0711063695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0543 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 7 (ITAR-TASS) — A group of people were arrested in Azerbaijan, who were planning an attempt on the life of Azeri President Heydar Aliyev. According to reports coming here today, the Azeri Interior Ministry issued a statement, which said that three conspirators, including a former senior officer of a special task force, were going to use the Strela-3 self-targeted missile system for bringing down the plane, in which Aliyev was returning from a trip abroad.

A spokesman for the Azeri Embassy in Moscow could neither confirm, nor deny those reports.

Officer Detained

NC0611184195 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Statement by Interior Ministry press service; date not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following searches conducted by the Republic's Interior Ministry and its local organs, Faik Bakhshaliyev, commander of the now-defunct Special Purpose Police Detachment battalion in Agdam and a suspect of crimes against the state, has been imprisoned in accordance with Article 57 of the Azerbaijani criminal code.

During the investigation, it was ascertained that following the March events, Faik Bakhshaliyev, who was hiding in the Nardaran farm of Memedali Aliyev, a close associate of Ayaz Mutalibov and former head of the Apsheron police department and one of the founders of the Emek Partiyasi [Labor Party], met there with former Defense Ministry officials Generals Shahin Musayev and Vahid Musayev and received instructions from them. It was determined that they were plotting to assassinate Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev. According to the plan, the president's airplane was to be hit on its way back from a foreign trip.

The generals and Memedali Aliyev instructed Faik Bakhshaliyev and Mashtara resident Huseyinbala Huseyinov to carry out this act of terror. For this purpose, Memedali Aliyev gave them an automatically controlled Strela-3 rocket to hit the air target, and Shahin Musayev taught them how to use it. Suitable locations around the airport were also selected to carry out the act of terror. However, despite all the

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preparations, by a lucky coincidence it was not possible to carry out this abominable plan. The real organizers of the crime are now in prison and investigation is continuing.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Attends Rabin's Burial Ceremony

LD0611162395 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze left for Israel today. He will participate in the burial ceremony of Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhaq Rabin.

I shall familiarize you with a statement by the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze:

I have been moved to the bottom of my heart and exasperated by the beastly assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin. In front of my eyes I have every detail of my meetings with this great and brave politician. However, we must not talk about our personal sentiments now, but instead about our helplessness to resist those black forces which selflessly attack the heroes fighting for the ideals of the mankind. I consider Yitzhaq Rabin a real hero of our times because he chose the most difficult, risky, yet the only right path for his own people's well-being as well as the security of the world peace.

I call on the world community, and first and foremost, the leaders of the Security Council's permanent member states to convene at an extraordinary summit of the Security Council and discuss the measures for eradicating world terrorism, aggressive separatism and extremist nationalism. It is a conciliatory attitude and tolerance toward the above-mentioned that gives a stimulus to terrorists and assassins to commit crime against mankind. Time has come not so much to protest and display humanity but take action instead. Yitzhaq Rabin's beastly assassination must make us see things clearly and it must wake us up to the fact that we must eradicate terrorism, barbaric nationalism and fanatical fundamentalism however well-disguised they may be.

Further Reportage, Commentary on Georgian Elections

Shevardnadze Polls 75 Percent of Votes

LD0611191295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 6 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 6 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — According to updated preliminary figures, Eduard Shevardnadze received 75 percent of the votes of those who took part in the presidential elections in Georgia. Some 2.6 million voters took part in the presidential and parliamentary elections in the republic. This is 63 percent of the total number of voters. This was reported to journalists today by Academician Ivane Kighuradze, chairman of Georgia's Central Electoral Commission.

Shevardnadze's main rival, Jumber Patiashvili, received 17 percent of the votes. Akaki Bakradze, according to preliminary figures, received 1.5 percent of the votes, and the rest of the presidential candidates gained even less.

As for the parliamentary elections held in accordance with the system of proportionate representation, i.e party lists, the following organizations received the majority of votes, according to preliminary information: The Union of the Citizens of Georgia (the mass socio-political organization of Shevardnadze supporters, which received over 20 percent of votes), the All-Georgian Union of Revival (the leader is Aslan Abashidze, the chairman of the Ajaria Supreme Council; over 16 percent of votes) and the National-Democratic Party of Georgia — over 7 percent of votes.

It is worth noting that a number of other political parties and organizations are very close to overcoming the 5-percent vote barrier and may also have their representatives and their own factions of deputies in the new Georgian Supreme Council.

Gia Zesashvili, the deputy chairman of the republican Central Electoral Commission, told journalists that so far only 33 out of 75 single-seat constituencies have summed up preliminary results.

'Union of Citizens' Wins First Round

LD0611192995 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1630 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi, 6 Nov — According to an agency correspondent, the Union of Citizens of Georgia held a news conference today at the union's headquarters in Vashlijvari. Union Secretary General Zurab Zhvania said that Eduard Shevardnadze's victory in the elections is proof that the people have confidence in him.

According to preliminary data, the Union of Citizens of Georgia has polled approximately 30-35 percent of the votes. Thirteen candidates of the union have won in the first round of the first past the post system, and around 20 candidates in the second round [as received]. The 5-percent barrier has been overcome by the National Democratic Party and the Revival bloc.

Eldar Shengelaia said that, acording to preliminary data, Eduard Shevardnadze has polled approximately 73.24

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percent of the votes, whereas Jumber Patiashvili has polled 20 percent. Shengelaia said that Shevardnadze's victory in the elections means the victory of his realistic policy. [passage omitted]

Observers Saw No 'Obvious Breaches'

LD0611151795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Nov 6 (INTERFAX) — But for separate insignificant irregularities, presidential and parliamentary elections in Georgia on Sunday [5 November] passed "without obvious breaches." Orik Solheim, who led a group of foreign observers who monitored the elections, declared at a press conference in Tbilisi on Monday.

The elections were "fair and democratic", he said. Sharing his view, OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] representatives in Georgia said there only were insignificant breaches which "had no effect on the elections outcome."

Meanwhile, some leaders of the Georgian opposition parties regard the elections as unfair. "Elections were rigged since at many polling stations opposition representatives monitored crude violations," Kokhaben Kakhadze, a member of the Ilya Chavchavadze Society, has said, adding that "too many voters received ballot forms without registration." He also refuted a report by the Central Electoral Commission that more than 60% of the electorate came to the polls. "Three hours before the end of voting, a bit more than 35% of the electorate were registered," Kakhadze said.

Shevardnadze Discusses Results

LD0611132695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Interview with Georgian State Council chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Tsiuri Bajelidze in Tbilisi on 6 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bajelidze] We presenting the regular Monday interview with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. Mr. Shevardnadze, preliminary results of the presidential election have shown that the Georgian head of state has won a convincing victory. Our media, foreign agencies, and CNN TV have been telling the world for a few hours now that Eduard Shevardnadze is supported by over 70 percent of the electorate. It is clear now that, despite the diverse political spectrum in Georgia and despite their relations with each other, Shevardnadze, the person who has allegedly been implementing unpopular reforms, has appeared to be much more acceptable and liked.

I would like to congratulate you on this great victory.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you very much. I would like to address all citizens of Georgia in connection with this occasion. Dear compatriots, on this, I would say historic day, when preliminary results of the presidential elections and parliament elections have become known, I am addressing all the citizens of Georgia, representatives, and children of all nationalities with a feeling of profound gratitude for firm support, for trust and devotion, for strong civic and political activity, for not supporting revanchist forces, thus saving the country from a fresh peril.

You have elected me as the president of Georgia and thus honored me greatly but at the same time I realize very well that this is a great historic responsibility. I have only to say that I shall justify your immense trust and each family, each mother, each child, and each citizen, each town, each village, each community and the whole of Georgia will feel it in the near future.

I would like to thank election agents, the headquarters of the election campaign, everyone who participated in the preparation of elections — and this includes thousands of people who wanted nothing but just and objective elections and the victory of the truth — and, I would say, the people who have sacrificed themselves for the victory of common sense in the elections.

I thank the Union of Citizens of Georgia, other political parties, the constructive opposition, the press, radio and TV, all mass media for what they contributed to the just presidential and parliament elections.

Constructive cooperation among the president, parliament, and the political parties is on the agenda as of today and it will further improve and strengthen in future and will serve the well-being of the people.

The elections, at the same time, were a general referendum and the people voted for the president's election program. I said that I was submitting my program for a referendum. The program includes restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity as one of its principal issues, the course of important reforms and the policy implemented gradually by the authorities over the past three years, the creative development of the course until the year 2000 and even beyond.

I would say these were elections that had to decide Georgia's fate at the moment of its social and political hardships and they can be regarded as a decisive test. By being vigilant and by using all their wisdom, their right political intuition and orientation, the people of Georgia have saved Georgia and its future. Democracy has won and reaction has been defeated.

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Dear compatriots, you voted for presidential power of a new type, for the parliament of a new type. You voted for democracy, freedom, sovereignty, law, order, reforms, actual implementation of the new constitution. You voted for a law-governed state and a civilian society, for the establishment and development of market economy. You voted for universally recognized human rights. I am very well aware what all this commits the president to. The president is the guarantor of all this on the basis of the constitution and the law. He is the guarantor together with the legislative, executive and judicial authorities, the provincial administrations, institutions of municipal and local governments, leaders of districts and towns, the whole population of Georgia.

The elections have opened the way for the community, the state and the economy towards complete stabilization and overcoming of the crisis. There already exist preconditions for Georgia to become one of the prospering countries in 5-10 years' time, as I said in my campaign speech. I am saying this without any exaggeration. Now, it is important to secure cooperation of the president, the parliament, the judicial authorities, constitutional and supreme courts in order to guarantee well-being of the people.

As the president — I am stating it in this way now — I am ready for the cooperation. I have, indeed, prepared adequate programs, my plans, my strategy and tactics. It is necessary today to improve and reinforce our armed forces, the army, border troops, internal troops, the police, the security service, prosecutor's offices and of course, the offices of justice. They made profound contribution to the normal proceeding of the elections and I would like to thank them for this.

We would not have been able to hold any elections if there had not been proper order and stability in the country.

We have mounted a victorious attack against the criminal world, mafia and corruption. The role of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office is especially significant in this action.

But this is only the beginning of the fight. It will continue and become fiercer.

The restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity is an urgent matter. Also urgent is a peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Abkhazia and Kvemo Kartli [South Osetia] as well as the return of 300,000 refugees to their domicile and everyday care about them. It is also important to overcome the consequences of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

I have said several times, and I want to reiterate that if we fail to settle these conflicts peacefully, I do not rule out that in order to restore the country's territorial integrity we will have to use forceful methods under the supervision and participation of the United Nations and the CIS, indeed, in compliance with the norms of international law. We have the moral right and moral commitment to do this, to restore the country's territorial integrity.

Social security, appropriate rise of salaries, pensions, stipends and other incomes, normal subsistence wages, normal commodity basket for the population are also among the matters of first priority. The president has to create conditions for each individual to be able to find his place in the society. It is necessary that economic and financial reforms expand and further develop. And this will happen. It is necessary to create guarantees for the stability of the national currency, the lari, to develop big, medium and small business, commerce, industry, agriculture, construction and building, transport, culture, health protection, education, sport, tourism. Privatization should be sped up but to reasonable pace. It is especially important to attract foreign capital, to intensify foreign economic relations, to implement plans and projects for economic and social development, to further improve the internal and foreign policy. We shall pay particular attention to the development of the nation's spiritual and material culture, ecology and demography, science, technology, implementation of the latest know-how. All these will serve as sources for prosperity.

Georgia faces great prospects on the eve of the 21st Century and the third millennium. Our politics, economics and culture are focused upon a socially active individual who belongs to the era of market economy and who can build a new world and new civilization. Indeed, human factor has been and will be the principal criterion of our politics.

Our constitution serves the well-being of the individual and we must be proud of our constitution. The state, the community, the legislative, executive and judicial authorities in all their structures and subunits also serve the well-being of the individual.

Yesterday's elections completed yet another great phase in Georgia's history. Once again I thank everyone, especially my foreign friends, foreign observers, who arrived in Georgia to attend the presidential and parliament elections. I am grateful to the foreign press, radio, TV, which covered our elections objectively. And of course I thank our TV, our radio, our press, including those who were biassed or unbiased when criticizing us.

The elections increased the authority of Georgia in the international arena and promoted democracy in Georgia, which we need like water and air. The Georgian people have created presidential and parliamentary power of a

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new type and this is a historic event. We are looking into the future with unprecedented hope. I wish peace and happiness to your homes, to your families, dear friends, dear compatriots. I wish to congratulate you on successful elections. Once again I want to thank you. God is with us and we shall be victorious.

[Bajelidze] Mr Shevardnadze, in a few minutes after the interview, you are leaving for Jerusalem, where a horrifying event happened yesterday - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin fell victim of a terrorist act. Your statement with regard to the event spread all over the world, in which you appeal to sound forces of the world to stand shoulder to shoulder in order to eliminate terrorism, one of the greatest evils of our century, which, unfortunately, is not a strange thing for us, either. What would say in this respect?

[Shevardnadze] I am obliged, it is my moral obligation, to go to the state of Israel and pay respect to one of the most outstanding and brave politicians, Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin. He took the most difficult decisions for the interests of the future of his country and for peace all over the world and he was punished by extremist and reactionary forces.

In addition with grief, this fact makes me express particular concern over sort of powerlessness displayed by the world in relation with phenomena like extremism, extreme nationalism, aggressive separatism, all sorts of fundamentalism, regardless of their origin. These are the phenomena which nourish terrorism and these phenomena have not received an appraisal necessary for the elimination of terrorism.

I have called on the whole world, the UN Security Council and the permanent members of the council in the first instance to hold a summit. I am not sure how they can manage this and whether they will feel the overall pain. They have to gather and figure out what the world must do after we have surmounted the most difficult obstacle, the most complicated thing — I mean the end of the Cold War, the end of the split of the planet into two worlds. This huge problem has been settled. I am certain that if the whole world unites and a tocsin tolls today, the dangerous problems I spoke about will probably be eliminated. It is fairly possible.

Today, people need least of all protests, mournful cries, tears and lamentation, although their grief is profound, indeed. This should be the first sign for the world to wake up, to sober up and to unite with the aim of defeating and rooting out the evil. I want to say this there, too, when I meet heads of various states. I believe that this visit is a must for me and is a demonstration of the will of our people.

Shevardnadze Calls Break With Russia 'Mistake'

AU0611142195 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 3 Nov 95 p 10

[Interview with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze by Stefan Bitterle; place and date not given: "The Break With Russia Was Too Expensive"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bitterle] Mr. Chairman, recently it was decided to transport part of the Caspian oil from Azerbaijan to the Black Sea through Georgia. On 5 November presidential and parliamentary elections will be held. Is Georgia now characterized as stable?

[Shevardnadze] Of course, an unstable country cannot become a transit country. There have been many obstacles and conditions. But then it was decided that one can trust us.

[Bitterle] Does stability also include that the new constitution should envisage extraordinary powers for the president?

[Shevardnadze] The constitution, which, by the way, was worked out with the help of many experts from Europe, is based on cooperation and comradeship between the president and parliament. The president does not have the right to dissolve parliament, just as parliament cannot force the president to resign — except through impeachment. Cooperation is important for Georgia. We are in a transition period and democratization must be made irreversible.

[Bitterle] Since the attack on 29 August you have cleared out your domestic opponents. Thus, several hundred Mkhedrioni leaders are in prison and your former security chief Georgadze has fled to Moscow. Are there still political opponents to get rid of, and who will be the next?

[Shevardnadze] Now it is time to start reconstruction. We have given all formal and informal armed groups the opportunity for a new beginning. Unfortunately, the Mkhedrioni were among those who did not want that. Many of their members were involved in the attack. Their connection with former security chief Georgadze has been proved. Georgadze is in Moscow now and we have asked the Russian authorities to extradite him to us. According to the agreement that we have signed with Russia, the Russian authorities are obligated to do that.

The question of who will be the next one to get rid of does not correspond to my way of solving problems. I am willing to cooperate with everyone, including those who are hostile to me. Anyone who struggles against me with political methods can expect the same from me. I hope that the elections will take place normally. As soon as the constitution has been adopted and elections

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have been held, the country will have the opportunity to continue the reconstruction.

[Bitterle] The territorial question of the two defected areas of southern Ossetia and Abkhazia is open. Since the war three years ago more than 300,000 Georgians have been waiting to return. What can you promise them?

[Shevardnadze] The separatists in Abkhazia committed a crime against humanity: They "cleansed" the country "ethnically." This is not only my opinion but also that of the representatives of 52 countries, who adopted a resolution on the genocide in Abkhazia in Budapest.

What can I promise these refugees now? That they will return to their homes in the near future. Parallel to that, Abkhazia's political status is to be determined, and that within Georgia's borders. We are willing to go very far regarding political status, but, at the same time, we demand from the separatists that they do not prevent the refugees' return to Abkhazia.

Of course, the roles of the United Nations and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] should not be underestimated, but very much depends on the activities and the position of Russia. The peacekeeping forces have not fulfilled their functions. They have not been able to guarantee the refugees' safe return, even though, according to the mandate, they are authorized to do so.

[Bitterle] Recently you also said that if negotiations do not lead to a solution, the problem of Abkhazia must be settled in a different way....

[Shevardnadze] We advocate a peaceful, political solution of this conflict right to the last moment. If no results are achieved now, I see the complete economic isolation of the separatists as the next step. Whether or not this step will be successful, primarily depends on Russia. Taking up arms is the ultimate resort. In fact, since it is linked with a bloodbath, it is as unacceptable for Georgia as it is for Abkhazia. However, it is also certain: As long as there is still one Georgian alive on this Earth, he will not resign himself to the idea that Abkhazia no longer belongs to Georgia.

[Bitterle] Some weeks ago a number of agreements with the Russian Federation were signed. Among other things, they apply to Russian support in energy supply and help for the establishment of the Georgian armed forces. On the other hand, Russia now gets the right to station 20,000 men on Georgian territory. Many Georgians accuse you of selling your country to Russia.

[Shevardnadze] We, that is, the previous regime, made a very serious mistake when we broke off all relations with Russia after Georgia declared itself independent. This cost us very much, including Abkhazia. Now we are establishing friendly, good-neighborly relations with Russia. At the moment, two topical problems are on the agenda that we must solve with Russia's help. First, we must establish Georgian armed forces, which is not possible without Russia' help because we lack our own weapons and weapons technology. There is no other partner for this in the world. The second problem is regaining Abkhazia and settling the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Here, too, Russia will give the decisive word. At the same time, Russia is interested in having its armed forces stay in Georgia and in the Caucasus as a whole. Thus, our interests coincide.

[Bitterle] Who will have priority in Georgia in the future, Russia or the EU?

[Shevardnadze] Georgia is a country where, historically speaking, there has never been a vacuum. Georgia has always been a point of interest for various countries, remote ones just as well as neighbors. We are a small country, but we are not unimportant in strategic terms. Therefore, our foreign policy must be based on finding partners and friends everywhere — close to home as well as far away; that is, both Russia and the EU, which has given and still gives us important support. Now we are in the process of concluding a comprehensive treaty with the EU.

Ioseliani Involvement in Shevardnadze Attack 'Confirmed'

LD0611192195 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in 1530 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — It has become known from reliable sources that an investigation has confirmed that Jaba Ioseliani took part in carrying out the 29 August terrorist act on Eduard Shevardnadze. The issue of his arrest will be resolved after the presidential and parliamentary elections are completed.

According to the same source, on 30 October the Georgian prosecutor's office issued a warrant for Ioseliani's arrest, but due to the fact that the suspect has deputy's immunity, he has not been arrested.

If Ioseliani becomes a member of the newly elected parliament, then the issue of removing his immunity will be raised promptly.

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Latvia

Ulmanis Discusses Oil Deal With Lithuanian President

LD0611173995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1701 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] State President Guntis Ulmanis today held a telephone conversation with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. The two presidents exchanged their views on the results of the elections in Latvia and the situation in Lithuania. Ulmanis told his counterpart that he will name a candidate for the post of new prime minister tomorrow. The presidents also discussed the political situation in the world and expressed deep regret over what has happened in Israel where Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was assassinated.

Speaking of the agreement that gives the company Amoco the right to exploit oil fields in the Baltic Sea, signed by Latvia, Ulmanis and Brazauskas expressed the opinion that Latvian experts should explain the essence of the agreement to Lithuanian journalists at a news conference.

Ulmanis Opposes Inclusion of Siegerist in Cabinet

WS0711105695 Tallinn BNS in English 1307 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Nov 6, BNS — Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis views as inadmissible the entry of Joachim Siegerist into the new Cabinet, the daily DIENA (Day) newspaper wrote Monday [6 November].

In Ulmanis' opinion, Siegerist is an extremist.

"If to look back, Siegerist's pronouncements have been extremist, they contained extreme threat, and I, as the head of the state, feel responsible to prevent any such threat," he said.

"I cannot agree and I will never agree that a man like this joins the Latvian Cabinet," said the president.

The head of state also criticized Siegerist party member Odisejs Kostanda, the candidate defense minister, for strong-worded expressions, such as promises to "spit Communists on stakes."

Ulmanis claims he has revealed his stance to Ziedonis Cevers, candidate prime minister of the National Conciliation Bloc, which also includes Siegerist.

As reported, Siegerist is a German-born politican who gained Latvia's citizenship through his father and appeared on the Baltic country's political stage soon after it separated from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Since then, Siegerist has won popularity by populist statements, charity actions and bitter anti-communism of his People's Movement for Latvia party.

His party did surprisingly well in the recent parliamentary elections and joined a post election coalition, headed by candidate prime minister Ziedonis Cevers of the Democratic Party Saimnieks.

MP Aivars Kreituss, who belongs to one coalition with Siegerist, blasted Ulmanis' comment as "inapt."

Kreituss claims that the president made it to prepare the public for his preliminary confirmed choice.

Ulmanis does not want to entrust forming of the Cabinet to Ziedonis Cevers and he seeks motivation for it, said Kreituss.

"Ulmanis should mind his expressions as he was elected to the post by the 5th (incumbent) parliament," said People's Movement for Latvia member Andris Saulitis.

"I will not criticize the president for the mistakes he makes, I will rather show my attitude in the vote (in the president election) after six months," Saulitis noted.

By choosing the candidate prime minister, Ulmanis is campaigning for the support of forces that could vote for the extension of his term in office, he said.

Ulmanis is expected to name Tuesday a politician for creating the new Cabinet.

Saeima's Sixth Convocation Opens 7 Nov

LD0711093895 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an hour's time the sixth convocation of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia will assemble for its first session. It is planned that today the newly elected parliament will hear a report from the Mandates Commission on the elections, and will approve its own powers. The election of the Saeima Presidium is also to be held.

Deputies will hear an announcement from the Cabinet of Ministers on relinquishing its authority, and the state president may possibly also name the candidate for the prime minister's post. You will be able to hear the first plenary session of the sixth Saeima on Latvian Radio's Second Program from 1200 today.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Invites Latvian Leader for Oil Talks

LD0611181995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas today invited Latvian President Guntis

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Ulmanis to come for an unofficial meeting to Lithuania at the end of this week for discussions on how further disagreements on oil in the Baltic Sea can be avoided.

Algirdas Brazauskas told journalists today that he spoke with Guntis Ulmanis on the telephone, and agreed that before the president's visit a delegation of Latvian experts will travel to Vilnius. This delegation will provide detailed explanations about the contract signed with the Western [U.S. and Swedish] companies on oil exploration in the Baltic Sea. Brazauskas did not give a precise date and place for his unofficial meeting with Ulmanis. The Lithuanian president hopes that this meeting will help to avoid confrontation between the two Baltic countries around the issue of the boundaries in the Baltic Sea, BNS reports.

Both presidents already made similar attempt earlier: A memorandum on maritime border delimitation was signed in Maisiagala this summer. However, these attempts did not eliminate disagreements between the two countries. [passage omitted]

I believe that Ambassador Karazija should return to Riga after the meeting of experts, Algirdas Brazauskas told the journalists. The Lithuanian president, referring to his conversation with Guntis Ulmanis, said that Latvia's contract with Western companies provides certain safeguards, protecting Lithuania's interests. He mentioned the article of the contract that says that the document will not be implemented before Latvia and Lithuania reach agreement on a maritime border. Brazauskas also said that he is encouraging the Lithuanian Government to initiate similar oil explorations on the Baltic shelf, announcing an international tender. If we were doing this work — exploring the shelf — simultaneously, maybe the solution of the problem will be easier to find, the Lithuanian president said.

Defense Minister on Plans To Manufacture Weapons

WS0711122795 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 7, BNS — International cooperation is important to Lithuanian defense not only politically but materially as well, Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius said.

At a meeting Monday [6 November] with the main oppositional conservative faction of the Lithuanian parliament, Linkevicius said that the army had already received several million USD in support from the West. The foreign aid had helped Lithuania greatly "to move forward."

The speaker was happy to tell the conservatives that foreign countries appreciated Lithuania's active role in the Partnership for Peace. Lithuania, for example, was one of the first countries to be paid 180,000 USD by the United Nations for training and salaries when its troops returned from Croatia.

To strengthen military collaboration, it is vital that the network of Lithuanian military attaches be expanded, Linkevicius noted. In addition to the military representatives currently assigned to Poland, Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania plans to send its attaches next year to the United States, Denmark, Russia and NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Right-wing opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis asked why the production of ammunition had been eliminated in Lithuania. The defense minister said that detailed plans had already been drafted for how and where ammunition manufacture could be begun again. It is planned that Lithuania manufacture even its own grenade launchers, Linkevicius said.

The defense minister gave no specific answer to the question whether the Lithuanian army had worked out plans for the event of a foreign invasion. "Lithuania has not compiled a list of enemies," Linkevicius said.

Asked to appraise the activities of the Russian army in Kaliningrad, where a tactical rocket was recently launched near the Lithuanian border, Linkevicius called the event "a signal that the Kaliningraders are dissatisfied with something, and that is not a good sign for us."

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